

Sunday by Sunday on the web Celebrating the Easter Vigil



The Church of England's *Common Worship: Times and Seasons* offers a rich provision of twenty-two readings for use at the Easter Vigil, from which five suggested themed 'routes' through the readings are drawn. Local churches are encouraged to select from these lists, bearing in mind that there should be at least three Old Testament readings; the readings from Genesis 1 and Exodus 14 are common to all sets and the Exodus passage should always be read. The routes include freedom, baptismal and renewal themes.

For each of these readings *Times and Seasons* offers (pages 376–397) a related Psalm with response, versicles and responses, and prayers. The accompanying notes emphasise the need for a creative approach to the readings, which 'could be read dramatically using different voices, or enacted. Each reading could be followed by silence, inter-active Bible Study, artistic activity (including the marking of the Easter Candle), discussion, testimony, drama, intercession, singing or whatever is appropriate for the context. Choruses, spiritual songs or appropriate hymnody could replace the Psalm.' A variety of approaches to the Easter Vigil is explored in David Kennedy and Jeremy Haselock, *Using Common Worship: Times and Seasons (volume 2)* (Church House Publishing, 2008) and – especially with all-age congregations in mind - in Gill Ambrose et al, *Together for a Season (volume 2)* (Church House Publishing, 2007). Other publications worth looking out for include an Alcuin Liturgy Guide, *Celebrating Christ's Victory: Ash Wednesday to Trinity* (Benjamin Gordon-Taylor and Simon Jones, SPCK 2009) and *Introducing Times and Season 2: The Easter Cycle* (Grove Books Worship Series 190, 2007). Those looking for help in singing psalms and canticles at the Easter Vigil might find another Grove booklet useful, *Recovering the Lord's Song: Getting Sung Scripture Back into Worship* (Anne Harrison, WI98, 2009).

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Freedom Theme readings

Genesis 1.1 – 2.4a

Genesis 3

Exodus 3.1-5

Exodus 12.1-24

Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20,21

Isaiah 54.5 - 15

Ezekiel 47.1 - 12

Zephaniah 3.14 – 20

The Creation

The Fall

Moses and the burning bush

The Passover

Crossing the Red Sea

I will save you from all your afflictions

The river of life

Jerusalem praises God

Those wishing to plan a Vigil using the 'Freedom Theme' readings may find the following suggestions of hymns and songs helpful:

	rdg	AM	AMNS	BPW	CFE	CH4	CP	HON	HTC	MP	NEH	R&S	SG	SOF	STF	TS
Christ is alive, and the universe must celebrate						422										
Christ is alive! Let Christians sing		199		244		416	140	96				260	32		297	
Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands												235				
Cry 'Freedom!' in the name of God		555						138								
Freed in Christ from death and sin		332														
Freedom and life are ours				528					544				171			
Freedom for my people (LHON 266)	Ex 3															
Glorious things of thee are spoken	Zeph	641	172	480	195	738	435	205	494	173	362	560	35	127	748	691
God of freedom, God of justice		559		623		263	447	224				625				
I will sing the Lord's high triumph	Ex 14, 15	190														
Let the chimes of freedom ring														882		857
Longing for light (Christ, be our light)		42				543									706	1409
Praise the One who breaks the darkness		762				348										
Send down the fire of your justice	Zeph														413	1495
Sing for God's glory	Gen					172		598							116	
Taste and see the goodness								628								
The Lord is risen indeed!			84				158	652			118					
There's a song in the heart of creation								660								
We have sung our songs of victory	Is 54									1014				1092		1037
Word that formed creation	Zeph	220														

Those wishing to plan a Vigil using the 'Freedom Theme' readings may find the following suggestions of anthems and vocal music helpful:

Title	Composer	Voices	E/M/D	Book source	Single sheet publisher
UNISON/TWO PART/ HIGH VOICES					
I will walk in the presence of God	Haugen	U/SAB#	E	C, MHS	GIA
Let my people go	Trad arr Weaver	2 part	E	RTF	
Lift your hearts this Easter morning	Walsh	U	E	RE	
Praise to you, O Christ our Saviour	Farrell	U#	E	CFE, L, LHON, RITH, SPR, BFS	OCP
There is a longing	Quigley	U/SATB#	E	CH4, L, SG	OCP
Vos sos el destazado	Trad arr Weaver	U	E	IECS	
THREE / FOUR PARTS					
Christ the Lord is risen again	Rutter	SATB	M	AC4, AWTE	OUP
Come to the feast	Haugen	SATB#	E	L, MHS	GIA
Hamba nath'inkululi (Go with us, Lord)	Trad arr Weaver	SAB		SFL2	
I will sing the Lord's high triumph	Morgan	SATB	E	SBSE, SPR	
If you believe and I believe	Trad	SATB	E	C, CG, CH4, IECS, SBTL; RTF (2 part)	
Praise our God and Saviour	Taizé	SATB + cantor#	E	C, CLM	
We are waiting	Farrell	SAB#	E	GBU, BFS	

Taizé, Iona and the world church:

Praise our God and Saviour CLM

Goodness is stronger than evil LAA, TIOAU

Ewe thina (We walk his way) WWHW

Freedom is coming IECS, VFLSI

Baptismal Theme readings

Genesis 1.1 – 2.4a

Genesis 7.1-5, 11-18; 8.6-19; 9.8-13

Jonah 1.1 – 2.10

Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20,21

Ezekiel 36.24-28

Ezekiel 47.1-12

The Creation

Noah and the flood

Jonah and the fish

Crossing the Red Sea

Sprinkled with the water of life

The river of life

Those wishing to plan a Vigil using the 'baptismal route' through the readings may find the following suggestions of hymns and songs helpful:

	rdg	AM	AMNS	BPW	CFE	CH4	CP	HON	HTC	MP	NEH	R&S	SG	SOF	STF	TS
At the dawning of creation	Gen 1,2	326						52				424				
Awake, awake, fling off the night	Ex 14,15	327	342	404	64		334	57								
Baptised in water					67	636			381				492			
Born of the water, born of the spirit									382							
Just as I am, without one plea		451	246	346	339	553	308	374	440	396	294	364	507	316	556	306
Now is eternal life	Gen 7	211	402				152	470			114	432				
Now through the grace of God	Ezek 36					637			390						538	
O wash me (L 513)	Ex 14,15															
River, wash over me	Ezek 47									581				487		441
Water of life, cleanse and refresh us	Ezek 36/47	338			401						655					
We know that Christ is raised						635			389			426				
When to the sacred font we came						630										

Those wishing to plan a Vigil using the 'baptismal route' through the readings may find the following suggestions of anthems and vocal music helpful:

Title	Composer	Voices	E/M/D	Book source	Single sheet publisher
UNISON/TWO PART/ HIGH VOICES					
Crashing waters at creation	Cross	U	E	A	
Grant to us, O Lord	Deiss	U/SATB	E	MHWE, CFE, L, LHON	
I beheld water	Plainsong	U + cantor	E	NEP	
I saw water	Plainsong arr Scott	U + cantor	E	AWTE	
O God, for you I long	Farrell	U#	E	GBAN, BFS	
Out of the depths	Walker	U	E	C	
Risen from death with Christ	Inwood	U#	E	RE	
Springs of water, bless the Lord	Haugen	2 part + descant#	E	L, RE, MHS	GIA
Water of life	Dean	U/SATB#	E	CSF, CFE, NEP, L, SPR	OCP
We shall draw water joyfully	Inwood	U#	E	CFE, CRP, L, LHON, SPR	
With joy you will draw water	Murray	U	E	NEP, MHWE	
THREE / FOUR PARTS					
As water to the thirsty	Coleman arr Barnard	SATB	E	SC, WIS, SBSE	S&B
Do not be afraid	Willcock arr Barnard	SATB	E	SBSE	
The River of the Water of Life	Archer	SATB	M		OUP
Word of God, renew your people	Farrell	SATB (unacc)	E	C, GBU, SPR, BFS	
You have put on Christ	Dean	SATB#	E	EM	

Taizé, Iona and the world church:

Tu sei sorgente viva (Lord, you are living water) CLM

Baptised in water WWHW

Set me as a seal WWHW

Wash me in the water WWHW

Renewal Theme readings

Genesis 1.1 – 2.4a

Genesis 22.1-18

Exodus 12.1-24

Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20,21

Jeremiah 31.31-34

Ezekiel 36.24-28

Ezekiel 37.1-14

Ezekiel 47.1-12

The Creation

Abraham and Isaac

The Passover

Crossing the Red Sea

God promises a new heart

Sprinkled with the water of life

The valley of dry bones

The river of life

Those wishing to plan a Vigil using the 'Renewal Theme' readings may find the following suggestions of hymns and songs helpful:

	rdg	AM	AMNS	CFE	CH4	CP	HON	HTC	MP	NEH	R&S	SG	SOF	STF	TS
From the beginning, God's most holy Word	Gen 1														
Word that formed creation	Gen 1	220													
Send forth your Spirit, Lord	Gen 1, Ps 104						593								
Lord, I come to you (Power of your love)	Jer 31								880			689	895	471	
Deep within I will plant my law	Jer 31, Ezek 36														
Return to God with all your heart	Ezek 36														
At the dawning of creation	Ezek 47	326					52				424				
Flow river flow	Ezek 47														
Glorious things of thee are spoken	Ezek 47	641	172	195	738	435	205	494	173	362	560	35	127	748	691
Lord of the church, we pray	Ezek 47	497						499	442			577	1433		
The stream of life is flowing here (SS 13)	Ezek 47														
With joy you shall draw water (L 399)	Ezek 47														
Word of God, renew your people	Ezek 47	342													
Spirit of the living God (<i>Iverson</i>)	s	263			619		615	S 23	613		308		510	395	462
We turn to Christ anew	s	341													

Those wishing to plan a Vigil using the 'Renewal Theme' readings may find the following suggestions of anthems and vocal music helpful:

Title	Composer	Voices	E/M/D	Book source	Single sheet publisher
UNISON/TWO PART/ HIGH VOICES					
Create in me a clean heart	Ogden	U	E		WLP
Give me a new heart, O God	Walker	U#	E	OOD, L, CFES	
Give us, Lord, a new heart	Farrell	U/SATB#	M	SLG, RITH, L, BFS; LOL (refrain only)	OCP
Grant to us, O Lord	Deiss	U	E	MHWE, CFE, L, LHON	
I beheld water	Plainsong	U + cantor	E/M	NEP	
I saw water	Davis	U	E	MHWE	
I saw water (Vidi aquam)	Plainsong arr Scott	U	E	AWTE	
Life of Christ renew me	Rizza	U/SATB#	E	ROP	
THREE / FOUR PARTS					
Lord, I am poured out	Harper	SATB + cantor	E	SOTL	
Word of God, renew your people	Farrell	SATB		BFS, C, GBU, SPR	
You make all things new	Haas	SATB + cantors#			GIA

Taizé, Iona and the world church:

Kristus, din Ande (Jesus, your Spirit in us) CLM
Amen, amen, it shall be so (Blest are the poor in spirit) LAA
Behold, I make all things new CAYP
Create within me a clean heart OITB
God to enfold you LAA, CG, IAMB
Let your restless hearts be still EOA, WGIR
O taste and see LFB
Take this moment, sign and space LFB, OITB, IAMB, CG
Will you come and follow me HSNW, IAMB, CG
You are the God of new beginnings OITB
All who are thirsty IECS

Women in Salvation Theme readings

Genesis 1.1 – 2.4a

Genesis 3

Exodus 12.1-24

Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20,21

Ruth 1.15–18; 2.1–13; 4.13–17

1 Samuel 1.1–end

Proverbs 8.1–8, 19–21; 9.4b–6

Isaiah 66.6–16

The Creation

The Fall

The Passover

Crossing the Red Sea

The Faithfulness of Ruth

Hannah and the birth of Samuel

In praise of wisdom

The Lord is like a mother

Those wishing to plan a Vigil using the 'Women in Salvation Theme' readings may find the following suggestions of hymns and songs helpful:

	rdg	AM	AMNS	CFE	CH4	CP	HON	HTC	MP	NEH	R&S	SG	SOF	STF	TS
From the beginning, God's most holy Word	Gen 1, Is 66														
From the apple in the garden	Gen 3											528			
Brother, sister, let me serve you/Will you let me be your servant	Ruth	604		813	694	393	88				474	619	54	611	
Put peace into each other's hands	Ruth	566		659			575				635	479		712	1489
Bless the Lord, O saints and servants	1 Sam 1				73										
Oh, the life of the world	1 Sam 1	548			141									114	
Who can measure heaven and earth?	Prov 8,9	822						27							
Eternal God, supreme in tenderness	Is 66														
Mothering God, you gave me birth	Is 66				117										
At break of day three women came (SS45)	Matt 28														
At dawn the women made their way	Matt 28				408										

Two metrical paraphrases of the Song of Hannah ('In God the Lord my heart is strong' and 'My heart rejoices') can be found in Christopher Idle's collection *Light Upon the River* (St Matthias Press 1998). A version by Emily Brink ('My soul is filled with joy') is in the *North American Psalter Hymnal* (CRC Publications 1987).

Those wishing to plan a Vigil using the 'Women in Salvation Theme' readings may find the following suggestions of anthems and vocal music helpful:

Title	Composer	Voices	E/M/D	Book source	Single sheet publisher
UNISON/TWO PART/ HIGH VOICES					
A Song of Wisdom	Stanford	S	M		RSCM
Love beyond all telling	Haugen	U/SAB#	E		GIA
O God of blessings (Soli Deo gloria)	Haugen	U/SATB#	E	MHS, SPR, CH4	GIA
THREE / FOUR PARTS					
God of Abraham, lead us	Farrell	SATB + cantor#	E	BFS, GBAN	OCP
Jesus is risen, alleluia! (Mfurahini)	Trad Tanzanian arr Bell	SATB unacc	E/M	TCSN, WP, SBSE, SPR	
Miserere nobis (Psalm 51)	Rizza	SATB + cantor#	E	AIL	
Song at the Empty Tomb	Haugen	SATB#	M		GIA
FIVE OR MORE PARTS					
Maria stabat ad monumentum	A.Gabrieli	SAATTB unacc	M		Procter
Wisdom is calling	Joncas	SSAATTBB (+ brass and timpani)	M		GIA

Taizé, Iona and the world church:

Sit nomen Domini (cantor verses from Psalm 113) CLM

Christ has risen while earth slumbers EOA, TCSN

God it was who said to Abraham LFB, OITB

Mary's Salidumay IECS

There is a line of women OITB, IAMB

Salvation Theme readings

Genesis 1.1 – 2.4a	<i>The Creation</i>
Genesis 3	<i>The Fall</i>
Genesis 7, 8, 9	<i>Noah and the flood</i>
Exodus 3.1-6	<i>Moses and the burning bus</i>
Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20, 21	<i>Crossing the Red Sea</i>
Jonah 1.1 – 2.10	<i>Jonah and the fish</i>
Daniel 3.1-28	<i>The three young men in the furnace</i>
Daniel 6.1-24	<i>Daniel in the lions' den</i>

Those wishing to plan a Vigil using the 'Salvation Theme' readings may find the following suggestions of hymns and songs helpful:

	rdg	AM	AMNS	CFE	CH4	CP	HON	HTC	MP	NEH	R&S	SG	SOF	STF	TS
Word that formed creation	Gen 1	220													
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you	Dan 3	330		147	191		150		115		591		1213		1183
How firm a foundation	Dan 3								243						
All you works of God	Ben				151										
Bless the Lord, creation sings	Ben							604							
I rest in God alone	s								291						
In the Lord I'll be ever thankful	s	334		308	772		929		865			656	817	776	
Safe in the hands of God who made me	s	773										653			
Sing the gospel of salvation	s	567													
Through all the changing scenes of life	s	812	209	740		604	686	46	702	467	685	654	1566	638	1561
When all around is fading	s												2124		1609

Those wishing to plan a Vigil using the 'Salvation Theme' readings may find the following suggestions of anthems and vocal music helpful:

Title	Composer	Voices	E/M/D	Book source	Single sheet publisher
UNISON / TWO PART / HIGH VOICES					
Let my people go	Trad arr Weaver	2 part	E	RTF	
Listen, Lord, and answer me	Farrell	U	E	BFS	
On the day I called	Farrell	U#	E	BFS, CBL	
THREE / FOUR PARTS					
Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel	Trad arr Barnard	SAB/SATB	M	SPS	
Do not be afraid	Willcock arr Barnard	SATB	E	SBSE	
I love the Lord	Bell	SATB	E	TSUF	
I need you to listen	Haugen	SATB#	GIA		
Let my people go	Trad arr Bell	SATB	E/M	TSUF	
The Lord is my light	Haugen	SATB#	E	MHS	GIA

Taizé, Iona and the world church:

Ad te Jesu Christe CLM

Benedicite Domino TI

I am sure I shall see the goodness of the Lord CLM

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful SPT, TSFP

Nothing can ever CLM

Our soul is waiting TSFP

Qui regarde vers Dieu CLM

Salvator mundi TI

I cried aloud to God TSUF

In deep distress OITB

Save me, O God TSUF

Set me as a seal WWHW