



RUMOURS OF HOPE 2020

A VIGIL FOR OUR TIMES

Dear friends,

As we journey through this Holy Week that is like no other, over 100 of us have come together from around the country – cathedrals and minsters, theological colleges and mission societies, religious communities and Christians of all traditions across the Church of England – to try and offer an online resource to help people watch and wait and pray through the night of Easter Eve.

The traditional vigil has been reimagined and remixed with fifteen short acts of worship, each lasting 10-15 minutes, that we hope people will use throughout the night. Each video focuses on a reading from the Old Testament and draws out of it rumours of hope in spoken reflections, music, art and contemplative and creative prayer. Reflections are led by bishops and theologians but also by parish priests and ordinands, as we explore with honesty the hope that we can have in these difficult times. Music and poetry has been recorded specially, with some new compositions and new interpretations of old favourites – recorded in homes under lockdown or beside night-time fires, rather than simply using archive material.

Each video will be available to watch at any time from Holy Saturday evening onwards but we hope many will choose to keep the vigil together and share in the worship on a timetable running from 8pm, with the services starting off an hour apart and getting closer together as we race towards the dawn and a final service of light led from Canterbury Cathedral precincts and ushered in by the Chrysostom Collective's retelling of one of the most famous Easter sermons of all time.

The idea came together in just three weeks as we each wrestled with and responded to what was happening in our own churches and parts of the country. Everyone in the Rumours of Hope project team hopes that this night of prayer will help us to hear God's call more deeply this Easter and whisper the good news of resurrection to a world in need.

Please join us online for our virtual vigil from 8pm on Easter Eve, Saturday 11 April, at www.rumoursofhope.co.uk if you can. Join round a virtual fire in the silences at our Facebook page @Rumoursofhope and follow us on Twitter @_RumoursOfHope. But wherever you are and whatever you do, pray that God will speak words of promise into our hearts and that rumours of his hope will abound even in the midst of this crisis.

May Christ walk with you and you with him this Holy Week.

The Rumours of Hope Project Team

Rumours of Hope: Online Vigil

Easter Eve 11 April

1 | 8pm **Let there be light**

reflections on creation from the Mission Community of St Frideswide, Oxford and a new Easter Eve hymn by Ally Barrett

2 | 9pm **Remember who you are**

Bishop Stephen Cottrell, clergy from York Minster and On Fire Mission remind us what Deuteronomy says about our identity

3 | 10pm **Commitment**

Paula Gooder, St Paul's Cathedral, London reflects on the story of Ruth and Naomi, while Em Kolltveit and Anna Tam respond with a 12th century duet, Dou Way Robin

4 | 11pm **Eve's story**

retelling the Fall with Morna Simpson, Leicester curate & photo blogger part of a crossover with the Up All Night curate-led vigil

#UpAllNight

worship with us online at
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5 | 12pm **Out of the depths**

lament from the heart with CMS #lamentspace, poetry from Christopher Southgate, and prayers for the NHS from Trinity College Bristol and St Mellitus ordinands

6 | 12.45pm **Stories of salvation**

Jersey vicar Jonny Scott and Oxford curate James Dwyer retell Moses' call and the crossing of the Red Sea

7 | 1.30am **I know that my Redeemer liveth**

ponder Job's cry of despair with Joanna Collicutt, lecturer at Ripon College Cuddesdon, Nicola Sullivan, Dean of Southwell, and the people of Southwell Minster

8 | 2.15am **Folk tales**

Newquay curate Lee Chantler takes us to the beach to sit beside the fire and remember Hannah and Samuel

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9 | 3am **Reconstruction**

Duncan Dormor of USPG and Br Tobias SSF remind us that the world is always in need of rebuilding, music from Quirentine, the Back Row of Bristol Cathedral Choir

10 | 3.30am **Jonah's dark night | Christ's midnight oil**

St Mellitus ordinand Natasha Beckles, poet Malcolm Guite and Winchester Cathedral organist Andy Lumsden take us into the deep and the belly of the big fish

11 | 4am **Holy fools**

Salisbury vicar and screenwriter Colin Heber-Percy gets to grips with Hosea, featuring an original song, You Fool, by Leeds curate, Rolf Mason

12 | 4.30am **Elijah | facedown**

words and music from Kent clergy Mike & Karen Nelson to reflect on the fiery flame that fell when Elijah prayed

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13 | 5am **Elijah | still small voice**

Katie Tupling, co-founder of Disability and Jesus, contemplates Elijah in his cave, with meditative prayers by Sue Wallace of Visions

14 | 5.30am **Anticipating resurrection**

Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley, poet Malcolm Guite and singer Em Kolltveit draw together Old Testament threads to point to Christ, with new art by Tom Bower

15 | 5.45am **Easter dawn**

Simon Cuff and the Chrysostom Collective remix an ancient sermon
Emma Pennington and Jonathan Arnold bless the new fire and our
Easter candles in the precincts of Canterbury Cathedral
Lydia, an alongsider at Mucknell Abbey, sings the Exultet

For more information, contact project curator
grant.bayliss@chch.ox.ac.uk | @CanonGrant

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