

Sunday by Sunday; celebrating the Easter Vigil

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. One possible route takes the theme of freedom and another follows a baptismal theme.

Freedom Theme readings

Genesis 1.1 – 2.4a	<i>The Creation</i>
Genesis 3	<i>The Fall</i>
Exodus 3.1-5	<i>Moses and the burning bush</i>
Exodus 12.1-24	<i>The Passover</i>
Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20,21	<i>Crossing the Red Sea</i>
Isaiah 54.5 - 15	<i>I will save you from all your afflictions</i>
Ezekiel 47.1 - 12	<i>The river of life</i>
Zephaniah 3.14 – 20	<i>Jerusalem praises God</i>

Baptismal Theme readings

Genesis 1.1 – 2.4a	<i>The Creation</i>
Genesis 7.1-5, 11-18; 8.6-19; 9.8-13	<i>Noah and the flood</i>
Jonah 1.1 – 2.10	<i>Jonah and the fish</i>
Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20,21	<i>Crossing the Red Sea</i>
Ezekiel 36.24-28	<i>Sprinkled with the water of life</i>
Ezekiel 47.1-12	<i>The river of life</i>

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, WI 98, 2009).

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

	rdg	AMNS	BPW	CFE	CH4	CP	H&P	HON	HTC	MP	NEH	R&S	SG	SOF	SPR	TS
Christ is alive, and the universe must celebrate					422											
Christ is alive! Let Christians sing			244		416	140	190	96				260	32			
Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands												235				
Cry 'Freedom!' in the name of God								138							240	
Freed in Christ from death and sin															122	
Freedom and life are ours			528						544				171			
Freedom for my people (LHON 266)	Ex 3															
Glorious things of thee are spoken	Zeph	172	480	195	738	435	817	205	494	173	362	560	35	127		691
God of freedom, God of justice			623		263	447		224				625			242	
I will sing the Lord's high triumph	Ex 14, 15														72	
Let the chimes of freedom ring														882		857
Longing for light (Christ, be our light)					543										13	1409
Praise the One who breaks the darkness					348										304	
Send down the fire of your justice	Zeph															1495
Sing for God's glory	Gen				172			598								
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														81	

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

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