



Radical Presence is a short programme of conversations, in which we'll listen for God's word in this time between worlds. We invite you to meet fellow Christians, online or by telephone. We will hear from contemporary writers reflecting on the Coronavirus pandemic. We will let this time of social distancing change us, for the sake of the world.

Covid-19 is forcing existential questions upon us: not only about our own survival or that of our loved ones, but about the deepest values on which our society is founded. Will our civilisation get back to normal? Or was normal already finished? What kind of community are we learning to be? What kind of work really matters? When confinement is over, how do we want to emerge?

We have a choice between what is easy, and what is necessary – for ourselves, the common good and future generations. One thing is sure: if we are to make such a choice, now is the time to be making it.

We will start on **TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER** and run from **7.30-9.00pm** for seven weeks.

The conversations will be led by Cornish people who have already been through the course.

You'll need a computer, tablet or smartphone, but if you do not have one of these there is also an option to join with a landline or simple mobile phone.

To sign up for the course please contact Peter Bonsey at radicalpresence@canpyran.org

Please invite any friends who may be interested.

Course Outline

1. Womb: Shelter of the most high God

Just as Mary's annunciation was a moment of proclamation of the imminent arrival of the Son of God, so in lockdown and beyond we, too contemplate what might be ahead of us as we emerge into a post-Covid world. How are we to approach this moment?

2. Jordan: Threshold of freedom

This session considers the event of Coronavirus as a 'threshold moment', standing with other threshold moments in salvation history that have been the making of the people of God.

It is a truism to say that 'nothing will be the same again'. It takes more courage to say that nothing *should* be the same again, especially when wealth and power are ranged against change.

3. Kairos: Moment of truth

Kairos time is always in the 'now'. Because it is always in the present, it is also eternal, and therefore it is also the time of Heaven. In our current crisis, it is *kairos* which gives us the moment in which to act.

4. Flesh: The vulnerable body of Christ

This week we'll reflect on the fact that we are made as bodies as well as souls. We'll sink into the deep physical connections between us and our environment – usually for good, but not always when there is a virus on the loose.

5. Contagion: Curse or mercy?

This week we will be considering how plague and pestilence can be interpreted in the light of faith. Outbreaks of disease used to be seen as a sign of God's wrath. Is this still true today?

6. Tomb: awaiting resurrection

What are the losses which this pandemic has visited on you? People you know and love? Financial security? Plans and assumptions about the future – or the present? Your own sense of meaning, identity and purpose?

All of these experiences of loss are a foretaste of the ultimate loss, the loss of life itself. Is Death merely a cruel absurdity, or does it give life its true meaning?

7. Emmaus: distance and embrace

In our concluding session we will review what we have discovered, and make plans for the journey from here, individually and in common cause with others.