

2017 RUNCIE LECTURER

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"Silent Carillons, Imperiled Voices, and Alternative Facts: Responding to Theology's Emerging 21st Century Soundtrack"

Arthur Michael Ramsey (1904 – 1988), the 100th Archbishop of Canterbury, affirmed – in the vein of the late Anglican divine Richard Hooker (ca. 1554 – 1600) – the value that Anglican theology places on ecclesial tradition, intellectual engagement, lived experience, and liturgy. For Ramsey, it is "to the sound of church bells" that the process one of his notable predecessors – Anselm (1033 – 1109) – described as "faith seeking understanding" (*fides quaerens intellectum*) should take place.

Today, theology, particularly that sub-discipline dealing with the practice of ministry, must be mindful of sounds echoing from a more disturbing soundtrack that includes: the at times muted voices of faith communities struggling to redefine themselves in light of shrinking congregations and fiscal resources; the cries of those marginalized because of their religion, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, country of origin, or citizenship status; and a cacophony of public truth claims that makes it difficult to articulate and work toward a shared vision of the common good. Those doing research on and / or engaged in the allied disciplines of ministry need to be proactive and creative in responding to this evolving 21st Century soundtrack. This lecture will outline some possible strategies for so doing.