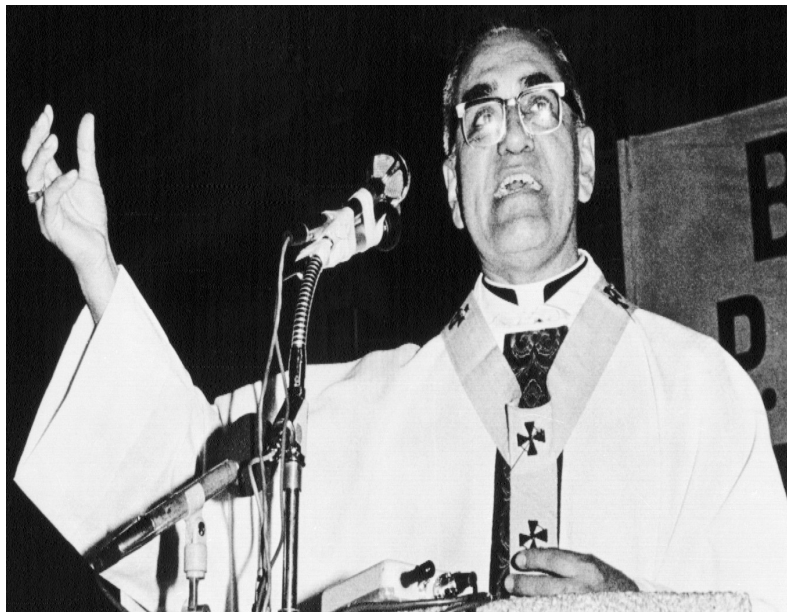


**Saturday, 28 March 2020, 11.00**



# **'Microphones of God - Romero 40 Years On'**

**An ecumenical service to mark the 40th anniversary of the martyrdom of**

**Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero**

**Preacher: Edgardo Colon-Emeric**

Associate Professor, Duke University, North Carolina USA,  
Director of the Centre for Reconciliation.

**NOW CANCELLED**

**Hymn:** God has spoken by his prophets - G. W. Briggs (Tune: Abbots Leigh)

God has spoken by his prophets,  
spoken his unchanging Word;  
each from age to age proclaiming  
God the one, the righteous Lord!  
In the world's despair and turmoil  
one firm anchor still holds fast,  
God is on his throne eternal,  
he alone the first and last.

God has spoken by Christ Jesus,  
Christ the everlasting Son,  
brightness of the Father's glory,  
with the Father, ever one:  
spoken by the Word incarnate,  
God, before all time began,  
light of light, to earth descending,  
he reveals our God to us.

God is speaking by his Spirit  
speaking to the hearts of all;  
in the age-long Word declaring  
God's own message, now as then.  
Through the rise and fall of nations  
one sure faith is standing fast:  
God abides, his Word unchanging,  
God the first and God the last.

**Welcome** - The Revd. Richard Carter, Associate Vicar for Mission - St. Martin-in-the-Fields, welcomes the congregation and introduces the Service ...

*From St. Oscar Romero, January 1980*

"We might be left without a radio station: God's best microphone is Christ, and Christ's best microphone is the Church, and the Church is all of you. Let each one of you, in your own job, in your own vocation - nun, married person, bishop, priest, high school or university student, day labourer, wage earner, market woman - one in your own place ... live the faith intensely and feel that in your surroundings you are a true microphone of God our Lord. Each one of you has to be God's microphone. Each one of you has to be a messenger, a prophet. The church will always exist as long as there is someone who has been baptized ... Where is your baptism? You are baptized in your professions, in the fields of workers, in the market. Wherever there is someone who has been baptized, that is where the church is. There is a prophet there. Let us not hide the talent that God gave us on the day of our baptism and let us truly live the beauty and responsibility of being a prophetic people.

**What does this mean to you AND for you?**

Members of the congregation are invited to share their responses with the person sitting in front or behind ...

contact: [romerotrust@gmail.com](mailto:romerotrust@gmail.com) website: [www.romerotrust.org.uk](http://www.romerotrust.org.uk)

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## **Prayer**

Loving God, you called your servant Oscar Romero to be a voice for the voiceless poor, and to give his life as a seed of freedom and a sign of hope: Grant that, inspired by his sacrifice and the example of all the martyrs of El Salvador, we may without fear or favour witness to your Word who abides, your Word who is Life, even Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be praise and glory now and for ever. **Amen**

Becket & Romero, *José María Valverde Pacheco* -  
(26 January 1926- 6 June 1996)

Dark centuries ago,  
it is told, a bishop died  
by order of a king,  
spattering the chalice with his blood  
to defend the freedom of the church  
from the secular might.  
Well enough, surely. But  
since when has it been told  
that a bishop fell at the altar  
not for the freedom of the church,  
but simply because  
he took sides with the poor -  
because he was the mouth of their thirst for justice  
crying to heaven?  
When has such a thing been told?  
Perhaps not since the beginning,  
when Someone died  
the death of a subversive  
and a slave.

**Hymn** : The powerless whisper - *Andrew Pratt* (Tune: Kingsfold)

The powerless whisper in the void, the powerful take the stage.  
God give us courage and the voice to share and speak our rage.  
Then may that rage, inspired by grace, mould, challenge and persuade,  
until decision-makers hear, and love those they betrayed.

When wealth is allied to the cause of politics or class,  
God give insightful empathy to clear the misted glass,  
to help us see with clearer sight, the way another lives,  
to recognise that we can change the fate that history gives.

Give credence to the claim we make: we share a common birth,  
that all are equal under God upon this ravaged earth.  
Let actions magnify the words, the arguments we make,  
until decision-makers feel their old assumptions quake.

### ***A Litany for Prayerful Prophets***

*Lord of Light, Lord of Hope, your prophets cried, "Shout out, do not hold back! Raise your voice like a trumpet." Yet we have seen your people suffer and remained silent too long.*

**Help us to speak out and act.**

*When human dignity is not honoured :*

**May we speak out and act.**

*When the poor are oppressed :*

**May we speak out and act.**

*When injustice reigns :*

**May we speak out and act.**

*When rights are not respected :*

**May we speak out and act.**

*When the law is unjust :*

**May we speak out and act.**

*When violence is normalized :*

**May we speak out and act.**

*When human life is cheapened :*

**May we speak out and act.**

*When other voices are silenced :*

**May we speak out and act.**

*When we are most afraid to speak out :*

**May we speak out and act nonetheless.**

*Lord, give us the courage to be your microphone :*

**That our words may ring as clearly as yours.**

*Still the oppressor's sword*

**And soften the hearts of the mighty.**

*We shudder at the thought of speaking and acting.*

**Those who trust in you will not be put to shame.**

*To remain silent grows more unthinkable every day.*

**Now is a time to hear your Word.**

*Soon it will be a time to speak, to act.*

**May we then speak out and do justice.**

*A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (17: 1-9)*

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

**Address** - Edgardo Colon-Emeric, Associate Professor & Director of the Centre for Reconciliation, Duke University, North Carolina USA,

***some moments of reflection ...***

**Hymn** : Who will speak - *Marty Haugen*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OuQbeqq5N0A>



Who will speak if we don't,  
 who will speak if we don't?  
 Who will speak so their voice will be heard?  
 Oh who will speak if we don't?

Who will speak for the poor and the broken?  
 Who will speak for the peoples oppressed?  
 Who will speak so their voice will be heard?  
 Who will speak if we don't? **refrain**

Who will speak for the ones who are voiceless?  
 Speak the truth in the places of power?  
 Who will speak so their voice will be heard?  
 Who will speak if we don't? **refrain**

Who will speak for the children of violence?  
 Who will speak for the people abused?  
 Who will speak so their voice will be heard?  
 Who will speak if we don't? **refrain**

Who will work for the thousands of homeless?  
 Who will work in the ghettos and streets?  
 Who will speak so their voice will be heard?  
 Who will speak if we don't? **refrain**

Who will care for the weak and the aged?  
 Who will care for the ones with no hope?  
 Who will speak so their voice will be heard?  
 Who will speak if we don't? **refrain**

Who will act for our common home?  
 Who will strive to save God's creation  
 Who will speak so these needs will be heard?  
 Who will speak if we don't? **refrain**

#### **Intercessions :**

The Revd. Richard Carter

As the Spirit of God brings communities to life, each and every day, so may that same Spirit renew in us the historic memory of Oscar Romero, Bishop and Martyr, strengthening us to work for justice and solidarity, reconciliation and peace. And so we pray in song:

#### **Response : Misa popular Salvadoreña - Guillermo Cuellar**



*Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy on your people, Lord; Lord, have mercy.*

Colette Joyce, Westminster Diocese Justice & Peace

In the unyielding hope in which Oscar Romero persevered throughout his life, trusting fully in your providence, O God, may we never lose heart before the adversities of life, but rather, animated by strong hope, live always confident and steadfast in your presence, as we pray in song: **response**

Clare Dixon, CAFOD

In the burning love that Oscar Romero showed to the poorest of the poor, may our hearts be inflamed, more and more every day, by the divine love that burns in you, O God, and in which you long to see all women, men and children liberated. We hold before God the homeless, the poor in our midst, and all who suffer from a climate of austerity as we pray in song: **response**

Colette Joyce, Westminster Diocese Justice & Peace

In the inextinguishable zeal that consumed Oscar Romero in favour of the needs of his beloved flock, to the point of sacrificing his life for them, O God, may we stand firm in solidarity with all people of good will to promote the common good of all. We hold before God all who are persecuted on grounds of faith, conscience and belief, as we pray in song: **response**

Clare Dixon, CAFOD

In the admirable faithfulness and strength with which Oscar Romero bore the contempt of many rich and powerful forces,, first vicariously, through the suffering of the poor and then in his own body, may we always stand with the marginalised and ignored, to be a voice with those who have no voice. We hold before God our divided world and nations, seeking justice and reconciliation, as we pray in song: **response**

Colette Joyce, Westminster Diocese Justice & Peace

In the spirit of Oscar Romero's Eucharistic ministry, O God, may we become steadfast in times of conflict, bread for those who hunger, wine for those who thirst, and tools of reconciling justice for the oppressed and rejected, as we pray in song: **response**

Clare Dixon, CAFOD

In some moments of silence let us pray for realism in our work for justice ..... And we pray in song: **response**

The Revd. Richard Carter

Almighty and merciful God, who were pleased to adorn the Bishop, Saint Oscar with the grace of laying down his life and of confessing his love for you while celebrating the Eucharist, graciously grant, we pray, that, as he imitated the Lord's Passion through his death, so we may follow in his footsteps, and be worthy to attain eternal joys. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### **Blessing & Sending Forth :**

God the creator has placed in the hearts of women and men the desire to ensure justice and equality for every human being. **Amen**

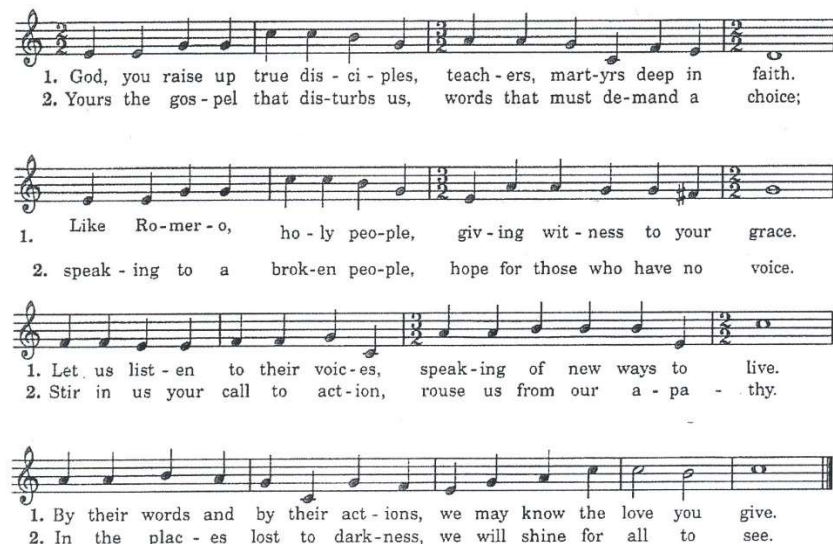


Christ the transfigured Saviour has shed his light on the precious dignity of each person, empowered with rights and responsibilities to reach fullness of life. **Amen**  
The Spirit of unity draws us all together to secure the liberation of the poor and destitute and the integrity of creation, here and across the world. **Amen**

May the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer strengthen us in this purpose, and remain with us and all of creation, now and in the times to come. **Amen.**  
Let us go in peace, glorifying God by our lives. **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn:** God you raised up true disciples - *C J Olding*

<https://soundcloud.com/wheatsheafmusic/god-you-raise-up-true-disciples>



1. God, you raise up true dis - ci - ples, teach - ers, mart - yrs deep in faith.  
2. Yours the gos - pel that dis - turbs us, words that must de - mand a choice;

1. Like Ro - mer - o, ho - ly peo - ple, giv - ing wit - ness to your grace.  
2. speak - ing to a brok - en peo - ple, hope for those who have no voice.

1. Let us list - en to their voic - es, speak - ing of new ways to live.  
2. Stir in us your call to act - ion, rouse us from our a - pa - thy.

1. By their words and by their act - ions, we may know the love you give.  
2. In the plac - es lost to dark - ness, we will shine for all to see.

Still our brothers, sisters suffer, helpless and afraid to speak,  
victims of oppressors using power to dominate the weak.  
When we see injustice near us, we will cry out: "This must cease!"  
And by our example, turn this world from violence back to peace.

In the gift of your creation, you provide for every need.  
Yet we squander earth's resources just to satisfy our greed.  
Turn our eyes to see the anguish on the faces of the poor.  
Open wide our hearts and hands to help the needy at our door.

On the ground a seed has fallen, crushed and buried in the earth.  
There is lies 'till time appointed, then a harvest brings to birth.  
In our struggling and our suffering, help us daily bear our pain,  
as we give our lives for others so they come to know your name.

Brought together by your Spirit, one in you, our risen Lord,  
Now you send us as your chosen, hearts emboldened, hope restored.  
Like Romero, we will serve you and whatever may befall,  
we'll devote ourselves to justice and the common good of all.

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**There will be a retiring collection for the work of the Archbishop Romero Trust.**



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