

# A Liturgy to Remember

*This is a quiet liturgy with an emphasis on personal and corporate reflection. There should be several stations around the worship space with images and items evocative of war, peace, famine, oppression, injustice and hope. In the centre of the worship space should be a low table with a large map of the world and a cross placed on the North Pole. Candles, nightlights, for each person should surround the map. Begin by gathering in a circle around the map and cross.*

Leader: We gather in the name of God,  
Creator, Liberator and Sanctifier.

**All: Who was, is, and is to come**

L: We gather in the shadow of all  
who have gone before us

**All: Liberators and oppressors**

L: We gather as the culmination of  
our history

**All: And the history makers for  
those to come**

Reading from the Gospel of John 14:23-27

*Quiet music is played and participants are given the opportunity to walk around to the different stations (see below for examples). As the music fades all gather back around the map and cross. The following is read:*

Reading adapted from Oscar Romero's *The Violence of Love*:

There is found all the Old Testament in Moses and Elijah and all the New Testament in Peter, James, and John: confronting the clever fables, the teachings of human beings, the false redemptions that humans promise, so that they can trust in him. And, says St. Peter, almost poetically:

This faith, like a lamp burning in the night, will light up the darkness until the morning star arises. It is the night of our history, it is the journey of our time, it is these difficult hours, such as our land is undergoing, which seem like a night without escape - until the sun of the transfiguration brings daylight and hope to the Christian people, enlightening our way.

Let us be faithful to it.

Dear brothers and sisters, the church knows it is God's lamp, light taken from the glowing face of Christ to enlighten human lives, the lives of peoples, the complications and problems that humans create in their history. The church feels obliged to speak, to enlighten like the lamp in the night. The church feels compelled to light up the darkness.



L: We are the Church  
**All: We are obliged to speak**  
L: We are the Church  
**All: We are compelled to light up  
the darkness**

L: And may God, in whose palm the  
world rests, bless us, inspire us  
and keep us now and always  
**All: Amen**

*Each participant is invited to light a candle and place it on the map of the world either silently or with a short spoken prayer.*

L: Eternal God, in whose perfect realm no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, and no strength known but the strength of love: so guide and inspire the work of those who seek your kingdom that all your people may find their security in that love which casts out fear and in the fellowship revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.<sup>1</sup>

*All pray the Lord's Prayer in their own languages*

### **Ideas for stations**

Each station should contain a picture, item, or collection of pictures or items that invoke thought on the topic and that can be brought to God in prayer. There should be enough stations so that participants can visit more than one and there is no crowding. Duplicate the stations if needed with a large group. The list below contains ideas; adapt them for your own context.

- 1) *Refugees*: Suitcase/rucksack, worn/dirty child's toy, train ticket
- 2) *Soldiers*: Photos of soldiers from every major conflict in the 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> century, including current photos and child soldiers
- 3) *Redeeming ground*: pictures of battlegrounds copied onto paper which can be made into origami flowers
- 4) *Swords into plowshares*: Play dough/plastacine which has been moulded into guns/swords which can be remoulded into something useful.

