



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

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**MODERATOR'S PRAYER ON NOV. 24, 2017 – FOLLOWING ATTACK ON MOSQUE**

I am sitting in a fast food restaurant in North Bay on the morning of Fri., Nov. 24. I just saw the news of the bombing of the mosque in the North Sinai, which BBC is reporting killed 235 people at prayer. I have not thought deeply, I am responding out of emotion. This may feel very raw.

How long, O Lord, how long?

How long will be people be killed as they gather to worship? How long will people be killed as they express their religious commitments in a place of worship? How long must religious leaders make protecting worshippers from mayhem and murder part of their planning and thinking?

How long, O Lord, how long?

How long will the Middle East grab the headlines because of violence and terror? How long must we pray for peace, hope for peace, desire peace and be bombarded with news of death and destruction from the area we call the "Holy Land"?

How long, O Lord, how long?

Hear our prayer. Hear my anguish for the people of the Middle East. Keep me faithful to pray, for there is nothing else I can do.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

—*The Rev. Peter Bush, Moderator of the 143rd General Assembly*