



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

MODERATOR'S PRAYER FOR THOSE IMPACTED BY ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND OTHER DEMENTIAS

January is Alzheimer's Awareness Month. In 2016, 564,000 Canadians had Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia. Each year approximately 25,000 people in Canada are diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or dementia. The impact on people who have dementia, their families, and the community in which they live is devastating. Our response, as Christians and as a church, includes prayer.

PRAYER

Faithful God, you never forget us or lessen your love for us.

You walk with people who have Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, give them the assurance of your never-ending, never-forgetting love and care. Shield these, beloved by you, from the distress, confusion and isolation that often are part of living with these diseases. Provide places where, physically and emotionally dignity and peace abound, and where people are celebrated for what they can do now.

God who cares for the sick and the suffering, walk with caregivers – both family members and health care workers – give them the strength to continue caring when their resources are at an end, patience when they are worn and tired, and the peace that passes understanding that comes from the Holy Spirit. We pray that you would use us to listen to caregivers with openness and compassion. Give to caregivers people who encourage them. Help caregivers accept opportunities to take a break, trusting others to care for their loved ones. God who gives all people rest, show caregivers how best to care for themselves even as they show care.

God of relationships, you put us in families and give us friends, teach us how to be family, the Christian family, for people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Teach us, when we visit people with Alzheimer's or dementia, to be in the moment with them, giving them our attention and not thinking about ourselves. Make us teachable that we might live patterns that fit the abilities of our loved ones and friends.

God of hope, grow our faith that we would live as people who know that Alzheimer's disease and dementia do not change your love for us or our loved ones. Grow our faith that the promise of resurrection offered to us in Jesus Christ includes the promise that Alzheimer's disease and dementia do not get the last word. Grow our faith that we may rest in the strength and courage the Holy Spirit offers to us.

These things we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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