



A Prayer on the 1st Anniversary of the shooting at the Islamic Cultural Centre of Quebec City

January 29, 2018 is the first anniversary of the mass shooting at the Islamic Cultural Centre of Quebec City, a mosque in the Sainte-Foy neighbourhood of Quebec City. Six people were killed and nineteen others injured when a gunman opened fire shortly after the end of evening prayers.

PRAYER

God of mercy,

With horror we remember the shooting at the mosque, the Islamic Cultural Centre of Quebec City, at the end of evening prayers on Jan. 29, 2017. We pray that your Holy Spirit will bring comfort to those who continue to grieve over the loss of loved ones and friends. We pray as well for continued healing for those who were injured.

Our hearts cry out that places of worship be places of peace and not violence, places where people can attend without fear.

We pray for religious freedom to be, not just a concept, but a reality in our country. That Muslims and Christians would be free from fear as they pray, that followers of Indigenous traditional practice and followers of Buddha would be free from fear as they observe the teachings of their spiritual guides, that Jews and Sikhs would be free from fear as they dress in ways that distinguish them as religious people, that Hindus and Yazidis would be free from fear as they publicly celebrate religious festivals in their communities. We ask for this freedom from fear for all people of religious conviction in our land.

We pray that expressions of religious practice, belief and commitment would be welcomed in the public square, rather than being relegated to only the private sphere. Teach us as a nation to respect religious differences and to engage in religious conversations with integrity and compassion. Give us the courage to defend the religious freedom of others. Give us the wisdom in expressing our religious beliefs with openness and integrity. Open the way for us to make connections of friendship and welcome with people from other religious traditions.

We pray that all people everyone, and especially in Canada, would have the opportunity and freedom to live out their religious practices, beliefs and commitments while living at peace with their neighbours, co-workers, and family.

These things we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

—*The Rev. Peter Bush, moderator of the 2017 (143rd) General Assembly*