



A Prayer for Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018

God of mercy and might,

We come to you as people who are disturbed and shaken by the news that a serial killer has been targeting the LGBTQ community in Toronto.

The news reports and the images have shocked us. We mourn for those who have been killed. We pray that you would comfort the friends and families of those who have been murdered and those who are missing. We grieve the loss of life and the loss of creativity and ability contained in these lives.

Even as we acknowledge there will likely be more names added to the list, we name before you those whose names are known, the murdered and the missing:

Selim Esen
Skandaraj Navaratnam
Majeed “Hamid” Kayhan
Abdulbasir Faizi
Soroush Marmudi
Dean Lisowick
Andrew Kinsman
Alloura Wells
Tess Richey

As we grieve we pray for an end to the violence, for an end to the killing, for an end to the fear. We pray that you would gather all people under the protection of your wings, as a mother hen protects her young.

Give us voices to speak for the safety of all people, including LGBTQ persons. Give us courage to act to protect people, all people, from bullying and violence. Transform our society so that all people may inhabit our cities and walk the streets of our cities without fear.

These things we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

—*The Rev. Peter Bush, moderator of the 2017 General Assembly*