L’Église presbytérienne

au Canada

The Presbyterian Church

in Canada

**Prayer for Refugees**

God of life and freedom.

When Abraham’s family wandered,

when Moses took refuge in the desert,

when the Hebrew people fled into the wilderness,

when the Israelites lived in exile,

you called them,

and gave them words of comfort and promises of hope.

In Christ you crossed the border.

You put on frail flesh,

were born and lived your life

always on the move in a dangerous world.

From your first night you slept in a bed and

a place that was not your own.

You and your family fled terror and found refuge in foreign lands.

You were always the guest in the homes and tables of strangers.

You were not always sure of your next meal.

This day/night we remember before you

those who lives are more like yours

than we can imagine or care to acknowledge:

those who are without homes,

who have been uprooted from their communities and countries,

who have had to flee for their lives,

who have left families and friends,

who live precarious lives.

We pray for your protection and care for those who suffer and must take refuge because of war, politics, natural disaster, status, race, gender, sexuality, and faith.

We mourn, we are moved, and we are angered by the loss that marks the lives of so many: the loss of dignity, of respect, of security, of community, of family, and of stability.

You have called us to be citizens of your kingdom.

We pray for the people of this country

and of the church,

that we may not be indifferent or naïve,

afraid or overwhelmed,

discouraged or blind to hope and options to help

or silent in the call for justice.

Open our hearts and our doors

to the stranger,

to the widow and the orphan and all that are dear to you,

to your presence that we may encounter in the foreigner,

and strengthen us to witness to the love of God for all people.

**Amen**