L’Église presbytérienne

au Canada

The Presbyterian Church

in Canada

**Prayer at a Time of Violence**

God of loving-kindness,

creator and sustainer of all,

you hold all situations and souls in your hands.

You sent Christ into the world

that we might have life

and have it abundantly;

he came as the Prince of Peace

to a world that is too often tragic and violent.

In the face of gun violence in *(name the place and the context)*

We come to you in grief

for those whose lives are cut short or forever changed;

We come to you in sorrow and in anger

at the violence in our streets, schools, workplaces and homes;

We come to you in regret

for complicity in the culture of violence

and in regret for our silence and inaction.

For every person and place we can name, there are hundreds that we do not know. Though little more than statistics to us, we are grateful that they are all known by name by you.

Give us strength to be a comfort for those in loss;

give us wisdom to be voices of peace in moments of chaos, tension, and fear;

and give us courage to be a force for change in our communities.

And in your grace, let us see the day when guns and all weapons that destroy life

transformed into instruments of peace and healing.

These things we pray in Jesus’ name.

**Amen.**