

16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence
Daily Prayers

Monday, November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women)

We offer ourselves to you, O God, our Creator.

We offer our hearts.

Use compassion to comfort siblings and children who are afraid.

We offer our eyes and ears.

May we see and hear the signs and stories of violence,
so that all may have someone with them in their pain and confusion.

We offer our tears as the hurt and sorrow echo within us.

May we be healed as we connect with each other.

We offer our anger.

Make it a passion for justice.

Adapted from <https://www.reformedworship.org/article/march-2002/give-us-peace-beyond-our-fear-resourcesdealing-pain-domestic-violence>

Tuesday, November 26

Lament

words by Mark Miller & Adam Tice, music by Mark Miller

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oU0K9Ulbu70>

Wednesday, November 27

Today, O God, we pray for those who suffer gender- based violence or discrimination.

Your tender heart cries with them in their pain.

May your healing Spirit tend to their wounds and heal their injuries.

May your strong presence stand with them when they confront their abusers or
share their stories.

We thank you for those who tell the stories and expose the truth.

Give them courage to persist when they are blocked.

Help them to be sensitive to those in pain and
those who dare to reveal the truth of their lives.

We pray for those who give their lives in pursuit of justice.

Forgive us, O God, for being apathetic to or ignoring gender-based violence
when it doesn't touch our life.

The world is our neighbourhood and
we cannot remain complacent to the injustices inflicted upon sisters and brothers.

We pray for those who inflict harm upon another human being.

O God, quell their need for power and control.

We pray that one day they will confess their sin.

The future is in your hands, O God, and

we pray that soon a new generation will take a stand against violence of all kinds and
your children will live in safety, peace and harmony.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Compassionate Christ. Amen

Lynda Reid, Order of Diaconal Ministries, Presbyterian Church in Canada

Thursday, November 28

God Weeps

Jim and Jean Strathdee

<https://strathdeemusic.com/SingalongVideos.html>

Friday, November 29

Spirit of Life:

You created and are creating.

Thank you for the beauty of your creation which you called woman,
and for the strength, compassion, and wisdom which have come to us through so many
throughout the ages and throughout our own lives.

Our hearts bleed for women who have suffered physical violence, verbal attacks
and/or sexual abuse in their homes, where they had hoped to feel safe.

May they find sanctuaries which allow them recovery, rest and renewal.

You care for us like a mother hen cares for her chicks,
may your loving spirit surround women who are at the mercy of military forces,
or who are in refugee camps after fleeing untold violence.

Comforting Spirit, give us the grace

we need to continue to be advocates and support for those women in danger.

We pray with thanks.

Ashe and Amen.

Marlene Britton, Diakonia of The United Church of Canada

Saturday, November 30

Compassionate Lord,

Hear the cries of those who are being abused;

Who are afflicted daily with physical and emotional blows,

....Righteous and Just God;

We cry out with them.

Grant them deliverance.

Grant them healing.

Grant them peace.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Yachelle Watson, Wesley Diaconal Community, MCCA

Sunday, December 1 (Avent 1 and World AIDS Day)

God of grace,

we acknowledge that HIV and AIDS have not gone away;

Lead our hearts to the care of our neighbor.

God of abundance,

we know that You have already given us the resources and ability to share...

Lead our hearts to the care of our neighbor.

God of healing,

...Show us how to be your hands in bringing this love and hope to those afflicted.

Lead our hearts to the care of our neighbor.

God of grace, abundance, and healing,

Hear our prayer. Amen

Deaconess Diane Kaufmann, Lutheran Diaconal Association

Monday, December 2

God, grant wisdom and courage to denounce violence and
create protection networks for all people who suffer aggression.
We intercede for churches to create safe listening spaces and actions
that promote peace and justice through gender justice policies.
We intercede for governors to govern with justice in favor of all people.
God, grant us your company in the struggle for life. Amen

Diác. Carla Vilma Jandrey, IECLB

Tuesday, December 3 (International Day for Persons with Disabilities)

폭력과 차별을 받는 여성을 위한 기도

창조주 하나님, 한국을 포함한 많은 국가에서는 아직도 여전히 여성들을 향한
억압, 차별, 배제, 폭력, 죽음이 만연하며, 이제 조금씩 목소리를 높여보려고 하지만, 거대한
사회적, 문화적 압박은 여성들을 더 큰 좌절과 공포로 몰아넣습니다.

하나님이 주신 용기와 인내로, 우리는 더 이상 순응하지 않고, 침묵하지 않고, 포기하지
않고, 훼손된 우리의 인격과 존엄성을 회복하려 합니다.

하나님이 주신 지혜와 사랑으로, 우리는 서로의 손을 잡고 변화와 평화를 위해 끊임없이
두드릴 것입니다. 존엄한 여성들을 기억하고 안아주고 이끌어 주소서. 아멘.

Creator God, in many countries, including Korea, oppression, discrimination, exclusion, violence, and
death against women are still prevalent, and now we are trying to raise our voices little by little, but
huge social and cultural pressures drive women to greater frustration and fear.

With the courage and patience God has given us,

we no longer conform, we are no longer silent, and we are not giving up to unjust discrimination, and
we seek to restore our damaged personality and dignity.

With the wisdom and love God has given us,

we will hold each other's hands and constantly knock for change and peace. Oh God, remember,
embrace, and lead all the women with dignity and inherent worth of life. Amen.

Hyerim Park, Diaconal Student, United Church of Canada

Wednesday, December 4

Dear Creator,

... for those who suffer the effects of gender-based violence,
help them to heal on the outside as well as on the inside.

We pray for girls and women of all ages, all races and all socio-economic backgrounds.

We pray for those who were born traditionally female
as well as those who discovered their femaleness over time.

Holy One, we pray also for those who cause violence on girls and women,
for they, too, need and deserve prayer, love and understanding.

We pray that you teach their minds and calm their souls
so that they will cease to choose violence ...

Loving Parent, we thank you for the people who tend to the wounds, ...

They are your hands and feet here on Earth. ...

Amen.

Louis Porter, United Methodist Home Missioner

Thursday, December 5

Loving Creator, hear our cry for justice and compassion.
We are the forgotten, the hidden, the neglected.
We are an easy focus of anger and gratuitous violence.
We are targeted because we are women, different and seen as disposable.
Yet our bodies and minds were known and loved by the Creator before we were conceived.
We reflect the light of the Divine
We pray for ourselves that we may embody love while demanding justice.
We pray for ourselves that we may embody understanding while requiring compassion.
Loving Creator, we ask that justice and compassion grow where hate and misunderstanding
were once planted.
Amen.

Rev. Deacon Nancy Ford, Anglican Deacons Canada

Friday, December 6 (National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women (Canada))

Womb of Hope
We remember our foremothers
who taught us that to have faith is to have the courage
to lift up the lowly and cast the mighty to the ground.
For them we say,
 We remember ...
Heart of Brokenness
We remember all those whose lives have ended because of male violence.
For them we say,
 We remember ...
Embracing Compassion
We remember the women who hold the hurting,
Bind up the wounds of the victimized,
...For them we say
 We remember
Voice of Justice
We remember the women who dare to step forward and lead,
...For them we say,
 We remember
Bearer of Righteousness
We remember all those who
Proclaim life over death,
Hope over fear
And love over hate.
For them we say,
 We remember
Amen

Caryn Douglas, Diakonia of The United Church of Canada

Saturday, December 7

God of wisdom, God of strength.
...Help us define ourselves by love.

Help us to be wise when we approach one another and act with kindness.
Let us appreciate one another for the beauty within each of us and
for the gifts we have to share with the world.
...May we be the momentum of harmony and reconciliation
towards a world filled with respect and dignity.

Amen

Deacon Kelly Brooks, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sunday, December 8 (Advent 2)

Waiting God,
You are with us in this season of waiting.
We live in the midst of chaos and disorder, greed and uncertainty.
And we wait for good news.
Our brains can tell us that the birth of Christ is on the horizon.
But sometimes, it's hard for our hearts to remember.
Breathe into us, as we wait.
Breathe hope, courage, and a renewed call for justice....
Amen.

Deacon Gretchen Peterson, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Monday, December 9

Almighty God, who created all of humanity in your own image:
Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against all forms of gender-based oppression and violence,
whether physical, emotional, or spiritual;
may we reverently seek justice, healing and new life
for those who have been victims of such oppression and violence,
seeing in all affected the very body of your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*Margaret Light, deacon-in-training;
The Rev. Joy Walker-Miller, a transitional deacon;
and Rev. Deacon Tracie Middleton, (Association for Episcopal Deacons),
the team of diaconal ministers serving at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Beaumont*

December 10 (International Human Rights Day)

How long O God? How long before this world is forever free from gender-based violence and abuse? Give us the strength and courage to do what we can in the places where you have called us to be. Help us to continue to strive for justice and peace until that beautiful day when we will no longer wear black on Thursdays.

Wie lange, o Gott? Wie lange dauert es, bis diese Welt von geschlechtsspezifischer Gewalt und Missbrauch befreit ist? Gib uns die Kraft und den Mut zu helfen wo du uns berufen hast. Hilf uns als wir weiter für Gerechtigkeit und Frieden streben, bis zu dem schönen Tag, an dem wir Donnerstags kein Schwarz tragen müssen.

Quanto tempo, ó Deus? Quanto tempo antes que este mundo esteja para sempre livre de violência e abusos de gênero? Dá-nos a força e a coragem para fazer o que estiver ao nosso

alcance nos lugares onde nos chamaste para estar. Ajuda-nos a continuar lutando por justiça e paz até aquele lindo dia em que não usaremos mais preto nas quintas-feiras

*Deaconess Deborah Matern Graf,
Lutheran Diaconal Association*