

Dec 6 2021 WICC Prayer Service and Call to action against Gender Based Violence

Still the violence continues. Still we pray. Still we act.

Still the anxious and afraid. Still the anger turned to rage. Still the heart that knows only hate.
Still.

Be still and know the great I AM. Be still and know that you can make a difference in yourself and your world.

Be still and be peace.

Hymn #47 Still, Still, Still or Be still & Know that I am God - Voices United

Listen, sing, and enter in.

Still, still, still, the night is calm and still (Verse 1)

Response: Here we are. Still praying. Still hoping. Still working for justice and peace and for violence to cease.

Light the Candle of Lament

We light the Candle of Lament to shine light on the darkness and make space, time, and permission to acknowledge what is. The past and present the pain, the past and present violence, the past and present abuse, the past and present neglect.

We light the Candle of Lament to shine the light on gender-based violence.

We hold a minute of silence for the eons of violence as we remember:

The Montreal Massacre at L'École Polytechnique over 30 years ago.

The missing and murdered indigenous women across Canada.

The systemic sexism and racism that degrades and demeans.

This is us. We too are the "Me Too" that is all too familiar for those who share the experience of gender-based violence.

The violence is still personal and individual. It is still corporate and communal.

And so we lament... what was and what is. We lament the gender-based violence that is.

Listen, sing and lament – Still, Still, Still (verse 1)

Response: Here we are. Still praying. Still hoping. Still working for justice and peace and for violence to cease.

Pray and Act

We pray for the lament we have laid down. We pray for peace and the call to action to challenge and confront the gender- based violence.

We pray for the living and the dead. We pray that all may live in peace and rest in peace. We pray to live in peace, free from fear.

We pray for the generations to come, that they will be born into a world of peace, justice, and right relationship.

We pray for healing and wholeness for those hurt, the battered and the broken.

Move us Holy Spirit to move us to appropriate action. Help us to speak up and out. United in prayer and action , may we pursue justice, be peace and live reconciliation and be empowered to go and make a difference in our world. Hear our prayers.

Listen and Sing and Unburden (Still, still, still verse 1)

Light the Candle of Unburdening

We light the candle of unburdening, to shine light and make space, time, and permission to unburden, to confess, to let go, to admit, to name the pain. Our pain. Our violence. Our sins. Unburden from what we have said and done and what we have not said or done. Acknowledging what we have denied and ignored. We bring our burdens and we lay them down.

We let go and let God.

We sigh, we release, and we rest in the Holy Peace and Presence and ask to be renewed and refreshed to return to the work of making our world a better place.

We light this candle of Unburdening to remind and reassure us that unburdening is a spiritual practice that takes us to God. We are invited to lay our burdens down. And so we do as we rest in this loving relationship that accepts us and empowers us right here and now.

We light the candle of unburdening and pray for the shift of energy from individual troubles, lament, and unburdening, to collective and directed action upon this public issue.

We light this candle and unburden. Hear our prayers.

Response: Here we are. Still praying. Still hoping. Still working for justice and peace and for violence to cease.

Pray and Act

We pray in word and silence as we unburden. (minute)

We admit and confess that we are involved in the violence of this world. We bully and are bullied. We hurt and have been hurt. We judge and are mean to others. We are silent when we should have spoken. And say things we regret.

We pray for a spirit of understanding, empathy, and compassion for “the other.” We pray that we might move from the differences that divide to the place of mutual respect, acceptance and understanding.

We pray for love. To overcome hate. To make peace. To heal. For love to be manifested through us as agents of change and action. May we process our anger and aggression in healthy ways that do not violate others.

We pray to be rooted in faith and called to action. We pray for a world free from gender-based violence.

We pray that we are able to shift...the lament, the unburdening, and the perception of powerlessness to a place of inspired and empowered action.

Listen and sing and transform (Still, still, still,)

Light the Candle of Transformation

We light the Candle of Transformation. This candle of illumination is the candle for the love of life.

We light this candle with hope, knowing that the healing and compassionate work of Jesus is not complete. We are the hands and feet of Jesus. We are still doing the work of prayer and action.

We light this candle with Love knowing that love can overcome fear, violence, and hatred. Knowing that love can heal.

We know that love is the answer, and we still offer love to the world even in the face of the violence.

We light this candle of transformation as those who will pick up this cross and follow in the path of safety, equality, and justice. We commit to pray and act for an end to gender-based violence.

We light this candle to illumine our path as we go out to love and serve.

Response: Here we are. Still praying. Still hoping. Still working for justice and peace and for violence to cease.

Pray and Act

We pray. We act. With love, hope, peace, and joy, we rest assured that God is with us in all of it and that we are transformed by this faith.

We pray for justice and right relationship to be created and sustained.

We pray for guidance and inspiration to act to end gender-based violence.

Still we pray. Still we are rooted in faith. Still we are called to action in the world.

May it still be so, and may we still make a difference.

Amen.

Response: Here we are. Still praying. Still hoping. Still working for justice and peace and for violence to cease.