



The stories of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls used in this worship are drawn from the newspaper from Laurier University published September 11th, 2016

*In Remembrance
Of Our
Missing and Murdered Indigenous
Women and Girls*



Our Sisters in Spirit

St John's Anglican Church

3428 Portage Rd.

Niagara Falls

October 4th is a day where we honour the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. The violence experienced by Indigenous women and girls in Canada is a national tragedy. We must take the time to give thanks to the families who are our reason we all continue to demand action.

As we gather to listen to some of the stories of these women and girls let us also remember we can be a light in the darkness to all who have been damaged by these losses and are haunted by the whereabouts of our Sisters in the Spirit.

For All People

Val - It is true that many of the old ways have been lost. But just as the rains restore the earth after a drought, so the power of the Great Mystery will restore the way and give it new life. We ask that this happen not just for the Red People, but for all people, that they all might live. In ignorance and carelessness they have walked on Ina Maka, Our Mother. They did not understand that they are part of all beings, the Four-legged, the Winged, Grandfather Rock, the Tree People, and our Star Brothers. Now our Mother and all our Relations are crying out. They cry for the help of all people. - **by Black Elk, Oglala, Sioux**

All - Amen



Prayer of Dedication said together...

We offer ourselves to you, O God our Creator.

We offer our hands.

Use our healing touch to comfort sisters, brothers and children who are afraid.

We offer our eyes and ears. May we see and hear the signs and stories of violence, death so all my have someone with them in their pain and confusion.

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

May we help to bring peace and healing as we share this time of remembrance together.

We offer our anger. Make it a passion for justice.

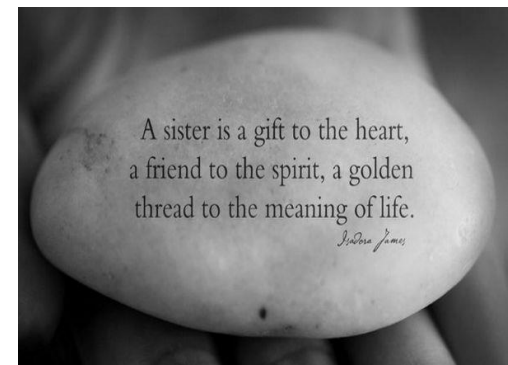
We offer all our skills. Use our gifts to end violence against our Indigenous women and girls.

We offer our faith, our hope, and our love.

May our encounters with violence, death, and missing Sisters bring us closer to you and to each other.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ who knows the pain of violence and death. Amen

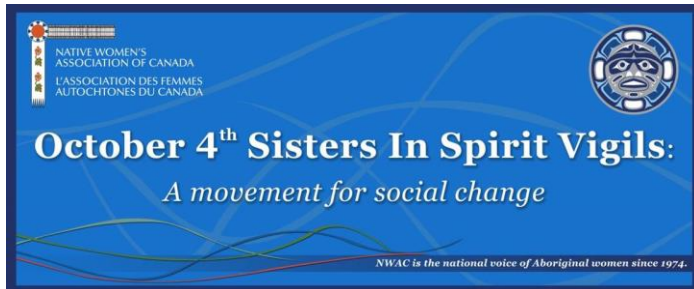
Final Blessing



All - Remember your beloved children, Creator; remember the Grandmas, Mothers, Sisters, Aunties, Partners, and Friends who have been viciously taken from their communities. Remember the loved ones who miss them; remember the faithful who have continually prayed to you throughout the seasons and throughout the years, and join our prayers with them. Amen. (Alydia Smith) Adapted by Val Kerr

We pray together

Eternal Spirit Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all. Loving God, in whom is heaven. The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen - From the New Zealand Prayer Book



Together we say - O Great Spirit, Whose voice I hear in the winds, And whose breath gives life to all the world, Hear me! I am small and weak; I need your strength and wisdom. Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. May my hands respect the things you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice. Make me wise so that I may understand the things you have taught my people. Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. I seek strength, not to be superior to my brother or sister, but to fight my greatest enemy-myself. Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes. So when life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

American Indian- Lakota- Chief Yellow Lark-1887

A Reading from Micah 6:8

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Hear with the Spirit is saying to the church

We now hear some stories of our Sisters in Spirit

Prayers for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Leader - Creator, remember your beloved children.

All - Remember the hundreds of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Remember your beloved children as we remember you.

Leader - Remember us, Creator, when we come to you with the hope of spring seeking love, support, and protection for Indigenous children.

All - We know that all children have the right to a home that will love them, a community that will support their needs, and a society that will protect and nurture them.

Leader - Yet we also know that many Indigenous children grieve the loss of their moms and aunties, live in communities that are underserved and in a society that is systematically discriminative and oppressive.

All - And so we pray for these children God... time of silent prayer.

Leader - Remember us, Creator, when we come to you with the passion of summer seeking guidance in how to address this national tragedy.

All - Help us to better understand the root causes of violence against Indigenous women; Provide energy and

stamina to the faithful people and organizations working with Indigenous Women to seek justice and healing; and ensure that our actions do not add to the further marginalization of Indigenous women.

Leader - Remember us, Creator, when we come to you with the mysterious bustle of autumn, seeking comfort and healing for those most affected.

All - Nurture and care for the women who are still missing; may they be sustained by love despite the hatred around them.

Leader - Gather the women who have been murdered; may they find peace despite the violence that has bound them.

All - Comfort the families and communities of the missing women; may they find joy in the memories of their loved ones despite the sadness in their hearts.

Leader - Remember us, Creator, when we come to you with the stillness of winter seeking wisdom and peace.

All - Share with us stories from both past and present, so that we can better affect the future with our thoughts, words, and actions.

Leader - Restore for us the stories of those women who are missing and who have been murdered, so that their memory and legacy will continue. Keep us restless until we are all able to find peace.