

A prayer for Indigenous Canadians responding to Yvonne Bearbull's call for prayer

God who hears the cry of your people, we cry out to you on behalf of the Indigenous people of Canada who across this land suffer death upon death, grief upon grief.

O God, whose Son wept at the death of a friend, our litany of grief and loss, includes:
the death of an infant at Stoney First Nation in Alberta;
suicide rates that are far higher than the national average;
Terrence, Keithan, Matheo (ages 13, 11, 11) killed in a hit and run at Nelson
House Cree Nation;
missing and murdered women who are grieved by loved ones from coast to coast
to coast;
Carrie and Gary, survivors of the Birtle Indian Residential School, who were
buried this week;
deaths in house fires far higher than the national average;
the death of indigenous high school students in Thunder Bay;
and...

We cry out, how long, how long must the indigenous peoples mourn, how long must
death and grief be their constant companion?

Tear open the flood gates of heaven that hope and peace might sweep through these
communities, as you restore broken lives and hearts.

Turn sorrow into joy as people find the resources sufficient for food, clothing, housing,
and community infrastructure.

Turn mourning to dancing as communities find within themselves leaders and
visionaries who will build communities of human flourishing.

These things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who has defeated the power of
death. Amen.

Peter Bush, Moderator
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