

40 DAYS OF PRAYER LEADING UP TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 2010

“This is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ.” Philippians 1:9-10

Day 1: May 23 (Pentecost Sunday) *Read Acts 2:1-4*

We praise you, O God, for the outpouring of your power, love, and mercy through the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. We praise you for the birth of the Church of Jesus Christ. We pray for a mighty outpouring of your Holy Spirit on our small part of the Church...before, during, and after the General Assembly gathering.

Day 2: May 24 *Read Romans 8:12-17*

Lord, we confess that we have not been willing to be led by your Holy Spirit. Instead, we have chosen to be led into slavery by sin and the spirits of this world. Forgive us, lead us forward, by the power of your Spirit alive and in our midst today.

Day 3: May 25 *Read Psalm 104:30*

When you send your Spirit, we are created, and you renew the face of the earth. We pray for the Holy Spirit to come and renew the face of the earth, and to renew the face of the Church, including the PCUSA. Our hope is in the power of the holy Spirit to bring life...to us, to our congregations, to the world.

Day 4: May 26 *Read John 8:15-18*

Lord God, we pray for every commissioner to GA to receive the Holy Spirit, and to walk closely with Christ during this very special and challenging time of service to the church. May the Truth be made clear to them, and may love and obedience grow daily.

Day 5: May 27 *Read John 15:11-17*

We pray for the local arrangements groups, working so hard to prepare for the GA gathering. We pray they will see this time of service as a time of joy; a time to share in sacrificial love, a time to listen for Christ's commands (and directions!) through the Holy Spirit. May their lives be fruitful in a challenging time of ministry.

Day 6: May 28 *Read Psalm 119:33-40*

In this time of study and preparation, we pray for the whole Church—including the PCUSA—to listen for your instruction and to obey it. Help us to stay on the right path. Turn our eyes from looking at what is worthless; give us life in your ways as shown so clearly by Jesus.

Day 7: May 29 *Read Psalm 119:41-48*

Gracious God, by the power of your Holy Spirit, give to each of us the courage to seek Truth in your Word...and the courage to speak that Truth with your love and power.

Day 8: May 30 (Trinity Sunday) *Read John 16:12-15*

On this Trinity Sunday, our hearts are lifted in praise to the Holy One who comes to us and reveals himself to us in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We lift up the Church, praying for re-creation, redemption, and clear guidance. Lord, we long to worship and serve you in ways that bring you glory.

Day 9: May 31 *Read John 16:13*

Holy Spirit, come and guide us into all Truth. Speak to your Church, including our small part of it. Make known to us what is heard in the heart of God. Speak boldly to GA commissioners, to committee chairpersons, to staff helpers, to those who are preparing to visit and to pray. May our ears hear and our hearts respond...

Day 10: June 1 *Read Proverbs 8:12-17*

On behalf of ourselves and our denomination, we confess the sins of pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech. Because we have not fear you, Lord, we have not hated evil...including the evil within ourselves. Forgive us, cleanse us, guide us in your counsel and sound judgment. Help us to remember that you love those who love you, and that those who seek you will find you.

Day 11: June 2 *Read Psalm 8*

Lord God, we are so often rushed and exhausted, even as we prepare to do what we believe is the work of your Church. On this day and on days to come, speak to us and urge us to slow down and marvel at the beauty of your creation. Let us marvel at the wonder of infants and children. Let us be humbled by the reminder that we are an honorable and glorious part of your creation. And with even greater humility, may we receive the responsibility of care you have given to us.

Day 12: June 3 *Read Romans 5:1-5*

Jesus, our Savior, from whom nothing is hidden, you know full well the tension, conflict, fear and frustration that afflict the part of your church called the PCUSA. We pray that we will be filled with the peace of God through you, since we have been justified through faith in you. We thank you for your gift of grace, and pray that, keeping our eyes on you, we will rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. We are not our own, we were bought with a price, we are yours.

Day 13: June 4 *Read Romans 5:3-5*

Lord God, we pray for the gift of a “teachable spirit” within us, and throughout the whole Church. Teach us what we need to learn through our suffering and disappointments. Teach us how to persevere and grow in character. Teach us to hope in you. And pour out your love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, so that we can learn to love as you love.

Day 14: June 5 *Read Romans 5:6-8*

Our Savior, we are so full of ourselves—our ideas, our plans, our ways of doing things—that we rarely have room for you. Remind us daily that while we were still sinners, you died for us. Nurture faithfulness and humility within us all, by the power of your Holy Spirit, so that there will be less of “us” in the church...and far more of you.

Day 15: June 6 *Read Luke 7:11-17*

Lord God, we long to see signs of life—new life, abundant life, eternal life. We long to see life in our families and communities, our local churches and in the PCUSA, in our nation and in troubled places around the world. We thank you and praise you for Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Give us strength to do our part in spreading the good news of Jesus near and far.

Day 16: June 7 *Read Psalm 146:1-4*

Lord Jesus, we pray for the gift of healthy perspective. As the time for GA draws near, many voices are speaking out. Some are the voices of people held in great esteem in our denomination: Moderators and former Moderators, Stated Clerks and former Stated Clerks, Executives and Council Members, scholars and writers and leaders of a variety of organizations. We thank you for any and all good they have done (and continue to do) for your church. But help us to remember they are mortal men and women. Convict our hearts of any sinful attempts to elevate them about you, to trust their words above your Word, or to place our hope in their efforts. Our blessing, our help, our hope is in you alone, O God. You are the maker of heaven and earth—and even the PCUSA.

Day 17: June 8 *Read Psalm 146:5-10*

O God who provides, as arrangements are made for the GA, we know that what is “provided” for us will be very good: quality hotel rooms, delicious food, an ever-interesting exhibit hall, air-conditioned rooms for meetings. We thank you for all of that, and for the dedicated work of those making arrangements. But we ask you to keep our hearts tender and generous towards those who are hungry or lack shelter. Lead our prayers toward those who are blinded by pain or held in any kind of bondage. May our eyes see how you lift up those who are bowed down—and may we follow you in that mission.

Day 18: June 9 *Read Psalm 147:3*

We pray for an outpouring of healing mercy, O God, on GA commissioners and their family members who are battling physical illness, mental illness, or heartbreak during this season. May wholeness, health, peace, and strength come to them in these days. We pray the same for all Advisory Delegates, visitors and guests, denominational staff, and volunteers.

Day 19: June 10 *Read Galatians 1:10*

O God, please help us to search our motives as we prepare for this GA. May we ask what Paul asked, “Am I now trying to win the approval of people?” Guard us from the sin of people-pleasing. Lead each participant in the GA, and every member of the church, to re-commit to serving Christ.

Day 20: June 11 *Read Galatians 11:17*

Gracious God, we pray your protection on the Church, including our part of it. Protect us from those who would weaken the gospel message, bring harm to your faithful servants, or bring deception into our gatherings. We pray that anyone who would bring harm to any part of your church will find themselves stunned by the light of your holiness and find his or her heart forever changed by the grace of Jesus Christ.

Day 21: June 12 *Read Hebrews 11:6*

Almighty God, we truly believe that you exist...help us to earnestly seek you today and in all the days ahead. When we are weary, may we seek you. When we start to worry about family, work, and church responsibilities put on hold to prepare for and to serve at GA...may we seek you. When we are fearful of actions that may be taken, may we seek you. Bless us with an amazing experience of your Presence.

Day 22: June 13 *Read Psalm 150*

Lord, we are breathing today, and we thank you for that gift of life. May our very act of breathing be praise to you. We praise you wherever we are today. We praise you with our prayers, thoughts, and conversation. We praise you in our homes, our churches, our places of work and recreation. We praise you with music and we praise you with moments of silence in your presence. You are great, powerful, and loving. We are part of your Church...we live and breathe to praise you.

Day 23: June 14 *Read Psalm 5:1-3*

Lord God, you know that not all of our prayers are filled with praise and gratitude. Sometimes our prayers are a sigh...sometimes we even weep as we pray. Hear us as we pour out our hurts and fears regarding this particular part of your Church. Hear us as we confess our sins.....We wait expectantly for your word of forgiveness.

Day 24: June 15 *Read Psalm 5:4-8*

Almighty God, we reject all wickedness, boastfulness, and deception in our part of your Church. We repent of those things in ourselves. Help us to enter your presence with awe and reverence, led by the abundance of your faithful love. Lead us in your righteousness. Make your way straight before us—even in Minneapolis.

Day 25: June 16 *Read James 1:19-26*

Holy God, as our General Assembly time draws near, please implant these words into our hearts: “be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger.” We pray for your Holy Spirit to be strongly present in all of us, so that we will be able to control our tongues and our tempers. We desire to honor you, Lord, by our thoughts, our words, and even the expressions on our faces.

Day 26: June 17 *Read 2 Peter 3:14-16*

O God, the GA is just over two weeks away, and we are already weary...weary of reading reports and reading about reports, weary of learning rules and procedures, weary of discussions on matters we've discussed for decades, weary of trying to understand technology that may or may not work well. We pray for the gift of energy for everyone—physical, mental, and spiritual energy. And we pray for godly perspective, because with you one day is like 1,000 years and 1,000 years like one day. Thank you for your patience with us.

Day 27: June 18 *Read 2 Peter 3:14-16*

Jesus, when you gaze upon us, your church, we would love to be found “in peace without spot or blemish.” But we know that peace and purity are not often found within us or among us. Forgive us this sin. We are grateful for your patience with us. As a sign of our gratitude, we commit ourselves to the study of your Word with reverence and humility, with no twisting of your Word to our own destruction.

Day 28: June 19 *Read 2 Peter 3:17-18*

Gracious Father, we pray for a season of growth in our part of your Church. We pray to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We pray that our words and our actions leading up the GA, during the GA, and after the GA, will be pleasing to you and will bring goodness to your kingdom.

Day 29: June 20 *Read Galatians 3:26-29*

On this day when we honor the ministry of Men in the Church, and celebrate Father's Day, we ask special blessing on the men who will be attending the GA meeting in Minneapolis. Commissioners, exhibitors, staff, press, volunteers, visitors—we lift them up to you for guidance and blessing. And we thank you that we are all “sons of God” through faith in Jesus Christ. We know the words, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for we are all one in Christ.” Help us to live out that truth before, during, and after the GA.

Day 30: June 21 Read Psalm 42:1-5

Eleven more days, Lord, and the Assembly begins. So many who will be attending are already tired, overwhelmed by the confusing reports, the endless details, and the relentless focus on the “institutional church”. We pray for thirst...a deep thirst for you, our Living God. Only as we drink deeply of your Holy Spirit, your Living Water, can we be trusted to gather and do the work of the church. Help us to put our trust in you, and praise you, for you alone are our Savior and our God.

Day 31: June 22 Read Psalm 42:6-11

We fall to our knees in prayer, O Lord, for your Church...especially for the small part of it called the PCUSA. Through the presence and power of your Holy Spirit, may what is so deep within you call out to the deepest parts of us. We pray that your love will direct our days, that your song will comfort and sustain us each night. In the midst of our own problems, fears, and heartaches, may we chose to put our hope in your...and praise our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Day 32: June 23 Read Psalm 43

God of truth and Justice, we pray for your light to shine brightly upon your church. We need your clear guidance in our local congregations, our presbyteries, our synods, and in the upcoming meeting of the General Assembly. Too often it seems that the meetings of our institutional church push people away from you, Lord, instead of helping them to draw nearer to you. Call us to your altar, convict us with your truth and your grace, so that Christ will truly become our joy and our delight, the focus of our praise.

Day 33: June 24 Read I Kings 19:1-7

Gracious God, you know that we are easily tired and discouraged...and the meetings of our church can be very tiring and discouraging. How quickly we say, “I have had enough.” We pray for rest in you. We pray for good nourishment to strengthen us for the journey ahead. Thank you for those angels in heaven and on earth who are sent by you to provide for our needs.

Day 34: June 25 Read I Kings 19:8-15

You know how deeply we care about your Church, Lord God, including the part called the PCUSA. Often we are zealous, and feel as if we are the only one who cares. Forgive us for being self-centered and so easily irritated. By your power, take our eyes off of ourselves so that we can look for you. Anoint our ears to hear your still, small voice speaking to us and to the church. YOU are the Lord of the Church.

Day 35: June 26 Read Luke 8:38-39

Jesus, we offer the prayer you taught us, “Deliver us from evil.” We know the pain that the forces of evil inflict upon the world and the world and the church. As our GA prepares to convene in a few days, we ask for an outpouring of the spiritual gift of discernment. Show us

what is of you and what is not of you. Help us to daily turn to you for deliverance from evil. And then, may each one “return home, and tell how much God has done” for us.

Day 36: June 27 *Read Luke 8:43-48*

Jesus, as we remember your healing mercy toward a woman in the crowd long ago, we lift up special people in need of your healing mercy now. We pray for those who struggle daily with physical, mental, and emotional problems. We pray for those weakened by cancer treatments, for those who cannot walk without pain, and for those whose blood sugar is such a challenge to stabilize. We pray for a special, wondrous outpouring of your strength for those participating in the GA who will find the long hours, fast pace, many steps, and hard chairs to be a physical challenge. And may those of us who are healthier keep a compassionate eye out for those who are not so healthy. Help us to be as sensitive and merciful as our Savior.

Day 37: June 28 *Read Psalm 77:1-15*

O Lord our God, as the GA draws near, we cry out to you for help. When we think of the problems we face in the world, and in the PCUSA, our spirits groan. We cry out for signs of your unfailing love, your compassion, your mercy, your promises. Bring to our minds memories of your deeds, your miracles of long ago. Your ways are holy. You are the God who performs miracles. Help us to look for them...and be ready to receive them.

Day 38: June 29 *Read Galatians 5:1, 13-25*

Forgive us, Jesus, for our sins. Forgive us for abusing our freedom to indulge our sinful nature. Forgive us for biting, devouring, and destroying each other. Forgive us for thinking “other people” need this prayer. Teach us how to love each other, including how to speak truth with love. Remind us each day, Lord, that our true freedom is IN you, not “from you.”

Day 39: June 30 *Read Galatians 6:7-10*

Glorious and eternal God, may the words of your apostle ring in our hearts today and in all the days of the GA. You are not mocked...people reap what they sow...and the church will reap what it sows. Forgive us for all the times we have sown to please our sinful natures and have seen harm come to our church. Help us to choose to sow to please the Holy Spirit, and from your Spirit receive new life. By the power of your Spirit, may we not become weary of doing good. And show us every opportunity to do good, especially to those who belong to our family of believers.

Day 40: July 1 *Read Philippians 4:4-9*

Lord Jesus, we pray the apostle’s beautiful words over everyone traveling to Minneapolis today...and for all of those who’ll be praying for them at home. May each one travel safely, with a joyful, hope-filled heart. May their gentle strength be evident each day. May they be free from anxiety as they pray confidently and thankfully. And may your peace, O God, the peace that transcends all human understanding, guard each one’s heart and mind in Christ Jesus.

10 DAY PRAYER GUIDE for the 2010 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind that Christ had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 15:5-6

July 2: Read Romans 12:1-2

Merciful God, we pray for people entering the General Assembly meeting, that they will offer their entire selves—body, mind, and spirit—as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to you. Send your Holy Spirit to guide the transformation and renewal of their minds. May it be said of this Assembly that all the commissioners and other participants were able to test and approve your good, pleasing, and perfect will.

July 3: Read Joshua 1:9

Mighty God, we pray for an outpouring of strength and courage...especially for commissioners and volunteers who are experiencing their first General Assembly. Protect them from discouragement and fear. Remind them often that YOU are with them.

July 4: Read Philippians 3:17-4:1

God of the nations, we thank you for our own nation, and for the freedoms we enjoy. We also thank you for the privilege of being a part of your world-wide family, the body of Christ. Remind us daily that our true citizenship is in heaven, and our strongest allegiance is always to Jesus Christ, our Savior. In His Name, we pray for our nation and its leaders, and we pray for the church in the United States and around the world. Forgive us...transform us...

July 5: Read Proverbs 14:33

As the various committees gather to do their work today, Jesus, we pray for an outpouring of your wisdom; we pray for the gifts of discernment. Anoint the ears of your people, so they can hear truth when it is spoken. Anoint hearts to receive your truth, and mouths to affirm it...and strong faith to stand by your truth on this day...and throughout the week.

July 6: Read Jeremiah 17:14

O God our Great Physician, we pray for an outpouring of your healing power on our General Assembly. Bring healing and strength to all those who are physically weary, weak, and in pain. We also pray for your healing mercy on those who feel overwhelmed by the process, confused by the technology, and discouraged by the direction and decisions of committees. You alone are our Healer, and our Savior. You are the One we praise.

July 7: *Read Psalm 127:1-2*

Lord God, we pray for Spirit-filled energy and alertness throughout this final day of committee deliberations. We pray for decisions that will be in accord with your will. We pray for decisions that will strengthen the church to serve you with great faith. And we pray for a deep sense of your peace and a good night's sleep at the end of the day.

July 8: *Read Proverbs 15:1-4*

O Lord, whose eyes are on us all, we pray your guidance on our tongues this day. Many words will be spoken today—some at microphones, some in hallways and over meals, some between commissioners helping each other to find their place in the deliberations. May our words be wise, our answers gentle, and may our speeches and conversations bring healing like a tree of life.

July 9: *Read John 4:13*

Jesus, our Savior, we have heard and read so many words about “living water”. Convict our hearts to remember that you, and you alone, are the source of Living Water. Apart from you we stumble through deserts of sin and corruption, or at best we splash through mud. Forgive us for looking for Living Water in broken cisterns. Forgive us for believing we are the source of Living Water. May holy rain fall upon the GA today...drench us in the Holy Spirit...

July 10: *Read Romans 15:13*

God of hope, as we enter the final hours of the GA meeting, most will need a fresh outpouring of joy and peace. We need a deeper trust in you. Remind us that you are the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, and the final word spoken to the Church (even our small part of it) will be YOUR Word. May we overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

July 11: *Read John 17:13-19; 25-26*

Righteous Father, we are grateful for the prayers of your faithful people in the PCUSA. Help all of us to continue to pray for your Church throughout the world, for the part of it we know as the PCUSA, and for the congregations we call home. We continue to think and pray and process what has happened at our GA, and what may come next. Bring your steady Presence to us, and fill our hearts with the prayer Jesus prayed for us in John 17. May the Spirit of Christ continue to make you known to us and fill us with your love. And may your Church live to serve and glorify you.