

**40 Day Prayer Guide Leading Up to
General Assembly in San Jose, June 21-28, 2008**

May 12: *"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit..." (Acts 2:1-4).* Holy God, we pray that Your Holy Spirit will fall upon all who gather for the GA, and upon the PCUSA as a whole. We ask that You confirm Your presence with signs and wonders.

May 13: *"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord..." (Acts 3:19-20).* Merciful God, we pray for a spirit of repentance to fall upon our Presbyterian family far and wide. We have fallen far short of Your best plans for us...forgive us and refresh us.

May 14: *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23).* Jesus, You are the vine, and we are the branches. We pray for the fruit of Your Spirit to grow abundantly among us, and especially among those who will be attending the General Assembly in June.

May 15: Lord help us all to grow in the fruit of goodness, kindness, and faithfulness. May such fruit be visible even as we prepare for GA. And may each one be placed under Your control, so that self-control will be possible.

May 16: *"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5-8).* Giver of all good gifts, we ask that You be generous in giving the gift of wisdom to all who will serve as commissioners this year.

May 17: *"To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits..." (1 Cor. 12:7-11).* Lord Jesus, in this time of brokenness and turmoil in the PCUSA, we desperately need all the gifts of Your Holy Spirit to be in operation in our General Assembly. As You have said, we can do nothing without You.

May 18: *"I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection..." (Philippians 3:10-11).* Jesus, as we prepare for this GA, increase our desire to know You, and increase our faith in the power of resurrection...as individual disciples, and as the Presbyterian part of Your Body.

May 19: *"But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:12-14).* Jesus, we pray that You will help us to let go of old hurts, bitterness, and painful memories of past General Assemblies. Help us to focus on what YOU want to do at this GA, and faithfully prepare for it.

May 20: Lord God, we offer special prayers for those commissioners who are inexperienced in technology. Increase their skill and understanding, and bless them with laptops that will work well.

May 21: *"O Lord my God, I called to You for help and You healed me" (Psalm 30:2).* Jehovah-raphah, we pray for Your healing touch on our commissioners, so that no illness will hinder their good work...

May 22: Jehovah-raphah, we also pray for Your healing touch upon the families of our commissioners, and on those with whom they work and worship.

May 23: *"To the faithful, you show yourself faithful..." (Psalm 18:25).* Faithful Savior, we ask You to show Yourself faithful this day to those called to serve at the General Assembly. In particular, we ask You to show

Your faithfulness to those who will sacrifice work time and income to serve...please provide for them and for their families.

May 24: *"I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below..." (Acts 2:19).* Gracious God, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, make Your presence known in the midst of the 16 synods in the PCUSA. May their ministries be effective and truly Spirit-filled.

May 25: *"To the elders among you I appeal as a fellow elder..." (1 Peter 5:1-4).* Lord, everyone who attends GA will be a part of a presbytery. We pray for the spiritual health of all our presbyteries, so that the shepherds of God's flock will be willing overseers of the churches, not greedy, but willing to serve with faith and humility.

May 26: *"A wise man's (and woman's!) heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction" (Proverbs 16:23).* Today, Lord God, we lift up those people who are called to serve as chairpersons for GA committees. May their words be guided by what YOU have done in their hearts, and may their words promote godly instruction and leadership.

May 27: *"When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise" (Proverbs 10:19).* Lord Jesus, today we lift up to You the support people from national offices and committees. May their words be few and carefully chosen...so that they may encourage and edify, but not arouse fear or accusation of control and manipulation.

May 28: *"And in the church God has appointed...those able to help others, those with gifts of administration..." (1 Cor. 12:27-28).* Jesus, we are grateful for all those people who will be making preparations in San Jose, especially the host presbytery and host churches. Give them the spiritual gifts of helpfulness and administration.

May 29: *"Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil."* Living Word, may these words guide those who are candidates for Moderator, and those who will discern and vote for the Moderator. We lift up to Your care and guidance Bill Teng, Bruce Reyes-Chow, Carl Mazza, and Roger Shoemaker.

May 30: *"He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak...those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength" (Isaiah 40:27-31).* As the end of Joan Gray's term as Moderator draws to a close in another flurry of activities, responsibilities, and travel, we lift her to You, Lord God, and we pray that You will provide her with spiritual, physical, and emotional strength. Honor the hope she has put in You.

May 31: *"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker..." (Psalm 95:1-7).* We pray for those who have been called to lead worship services during the week of GA. May their hearts be pure before You, and may they truly lead us in reverent, joyful, and hope-filled worship.

June 1: *"For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as Your servants for Jesus' sake" (2 Cor. 4:5).* We ask for an outpouring of Your Spirit upon those who will preach during the GA worship services. May they be reverent, humble, and passionate as they preach Jesus Christ as Lord.

June 2: *"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and He will come near to you...Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up" (James 4:7-10).* Today we pray for those who are candidates for the office of Stated Clerk of the PCUSA. We pray that they will submit themselves to You, Jesus, in humility and faith. As they humble themselves before You, we ask that Your Spirit will clearly lift up Your best choice.

June 3: *"I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy..." (Joel 2:28-29).* We pray special blessings and protection for our Youth Advisory Delegates to the GA. May they be filled to overflowing with the power of Your Holy Spirit.

June 4: *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follows His precepts have good understanding..." (Psalm 11:10).* Jesus, we pray for an increase in understanding and wisdom for those theological students who will serve as advisory delegates this year. Fill them with Your Spirit and teach them to keep their eyes on You.

June 5: *"...the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore" (Psalm 121:7-8).* O Lord, we have all been blessed by Your missionaries, who have been "coming and going" on Your behalf for many years. We thank You for those who will be coming to San Jose, and pray that we will listen and learn from their faith and wisdom.

June 6: *"For the sake of my brothers and friends, I will say, 'Peace be within you.' For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your prosperity" (Psalm 122:8-9).* We thank You, God, for our friends and colleagues who serve other churches within Your family. We thank You for the ecumenical delegates who will be with us in San Jose, and we pray for their peace and provision in You.

June 7: *"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" (Acts 2:42).* We lift up for Your guidance and blessing all those who are organizing special breakfasts, lunches, dinners, and receptions. We pray for revelation for the speakers, and true fellowship around the tables.

June 8: *"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32).* We pray for those who will be reporting on GA business and activities before, during, and after the assembly. Bless them with a spirit of truth and wisdom. Keep them close to Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

June 9: *"And now I will show you the most excellent way" (I Cor. 12:31).* Creator God, many people will set up booths in the assembly hall... "showing" what their group/ministry is all about. May every display show your love...may every person at every booth speak and act with the love of Christ.

June 10: *"I am the vine, you are the branches...apart from Me you can do nothing" (John 15:1-8).* Again we lift up the commissioners to GA, and all those who will be on-site and a part of the gathering. May each one be blessed with spiritual health. Help each one to draw close to Jesus, and stay close to Jesus throughout the week, living in a strong personal relationship with the Savior.

June 11: *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).* Merciful Savior, touch the heart of every commissioner and lead them to a time of honest confession of sin before they arrive in San Jose. And strengthen their hearts with the assurance of Your forgiveness.

June 12: *"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Col. 3:13).* Merciful Savior, touch the heart of every commissioner and help them to forgive whoever they need to forgive before they travel to San Jose. And help them each day to forgive those they need to forgive in San Jose.

June 13: *"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be people of courage; be strong" (I Cor. 16:13).* O God, our strength, we pray for courage for all who will attend this assembly as commissioners. And may the joy of the Lord be their daily strength.

June 14: *"I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I put my hope" (Psalm 130:5).* Lord God, we know that every GA has moments of deep discouragement. Help your people, especially the commissioners, to wait for You...and to put their hope in Your Word. Bring Your Word to their minds and hearts.

June 15: *“My prayer is not that You take them out of the world, but that You protect them from the evil one” (John 17:15).* We pray for a hedge of protection around the homes, jobs, and local churches of those who will be serving at GA. We pray against spirits of distraction, and we pray for Your peace and protection.

June 16: *“Now may our God and Father Himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you” (1 Thess. 3:11).* We pray for traveling mercies for all who will be traveling by jet, train, bus, or car to the GA in San Jose. May their travels be safe, timely, and brightened by unexpected blessings.

June 17: *“I will lie down and sleep in peace, for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety” (Psalm 4:8).* Giver of all good gifts, we pray for the gift of rest and sound sleep for Your people...before, during and after GA. We pray for safe and healthy accommodations in San Jose.

June 18: *“But You, O Lord, sit enthroned forever; your renown endures through all generations” (Psalm 102:12).* Holy God, we pray that You will sit enthroned over the gathering of Presbyterians in San Jose...and that Your presence and glory will be discerned from the moment the first commissioners arrive. And may every word spoken and every vote taken bring renown to Jesus in future generations.

June 19: *“I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will guide him and restore comfort to him, creating praise on the lips of the mourners of Israel. ‘Peace, peace, to those far and near,’ says the Lord. ‘And I will heal him.’ (Isaiah 57:18-19).* Lord God, we approach this GA knowing that we have been a broken, sinful people...and we come knowing that YOU know it. We pray for the miracle of healing...authentic healing from Your Holy Spirit, healing that brings comfort, praise, and peace.

June 20: *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes... (Ephesians 6:10-20).* Mighty and merciful Savior, we pray the full armor of God on the GA commissioners and everyone who will be a part of that gathering in San Jose. Place upon them daily the helmet of salvation, the breastplate of Your righteousness, the belt of truth, the shoes of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, and the sword of the Holy Spirit, which is the Word of God. Help each one to stand strong in faith and prayer.