

# A Season of Prayer for the Reformed Church in America

## Introduction

Thank you for participating in a month of prayer with the Reformed Church in America. This series of Scripture and prayer prompts was written by Rev. Don Poest and Rev. Dr. Patricia Singletary for the month leading up to the 2021 General Synod; however, these timeless and wise words can be used for Scripture-based prayer about anything and any time.

Uniting with others in prayer—and intercession—is a great weapon God has empowered the body of Christ to use. How marvelous to know that the prayers of the believers are forever in the throne room of God!

**“And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of the saints” (Revelation 5:8, KJV).**

The Word of God provides wonderful guidance on how to approach the throne of God in prayer. Over the next month, we'll be approaching God's throne together in prayer, using Scriptures shared every day through this series. Regardless of the time of day that you open this guide and pray, your prayers are mingling with the prayers of others across the RCA.

The Scriptures are a guide for you to have an intimate relationship with the Lord, and praying the Scriptures is a wonderful spiritual discipline to explore. The combination of the Word of God and prayer will transform your way of thinking and your daily life, perhaps especially when it comes to the Reformed Church in America, which is one focus of our prayers this month.

Praying Scripture will allow others to know that it is possible to change, and you will give hope to those who come to you seeking advice. When you admonish someone with the Word of God, you are offering spiritual guidance, support, and consolation.

Once you begin inquiring into God's Word, you must commit to ordering your conversation correctly.

**Psalm 50:23 (NRSV): “Those who bring thanksgiving as their sacrifice honor**

**me; to those who go the right way I will show the salvation of God.”**

Be a doer of the Word of God because faith always has a good report. You cannot pray successfully for yourself, for someone else, or about something and then talk negatively about the matter.

**Matthew 12:35-37 (NRSV): “The good person brings good things out of a good treasure, and the evil person brings evil things out of an evil treasure. I tell you, on the day of judgment you will have to give an account for every careless word you utter; for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”**

This is being double-minded, and a double-minded man or woman receives nothing from God.

**James 1:6-8 (NRSV): “But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord.”**

It is in the name and through the power and authority of Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit moving in our midst that we pray. I invite you to pray these Scriptures for the future of the Reformed Church in America, and for those who will be gathered at General Synod, but I also invite you to pray them for yourself, for your family and friends, for your community, and for your church.

– Rev. Dr. Patricia A. Singletary,  
Pastor of Elmendorf Reformed Church (New York)

*The Rev. Dr. Patricia A. Singletary is the first woman pastor of the Elmendorf Reformed Church, the oldest church in the village of Harlem, New York, established 1660. She earned her M.Div. and D.Min. from New Brunswick Theological Seminary. She is the founder of the PUSH (Pray Until Something Happens) movement and is the founder of Harlem’s African Burial Ground Task Force, through whose work the City of New York is now planning to establish a memorial site, cultural museum, and affordable housing site in that area.*

*Daily prayers are written by the Rev. Don Poest. Don is a retired minister in the Reformed Church in America. He spent 38 years as pastor of Brunswick Reformed Church in Brunswick, Ohio, where he still lives with his wife, Cathy, and one year as interim general secretary for the RCA. The Poests have two sons in pastoral ministry and three grandchildren nearby. A favorite activity is taking the grandkids for ice cream.*

# Daily Scripture and Prayer Prompts

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## Day 1

Too often, we begin our work without pausing to reflect on the authority of the One who sends us. Read Matthew 28:16-20 and Psalm 57:9-11. In prayer, ask the Holy Spirit to draw your focus to God's authority and glory.



## Day 2

In the spirit of our Lord's prayer, let us begin our journey with a focus on praising God. Read Psalm 8. In prayer, focus on the majesty and significance of God's names.



## Day 3

Continue the spirit of praise. Read Psalm 100. In prayer, obey the commands of this psalm.



## Day 4

Continue the spirit of praise. Read Psalm 117. In prayer, focus on God's love and faithfulness to you and to the RCA.



## Day 5

Read Psalm 16. Let this psalm be a summary of the history of our denomination. Pick out the verses that apply to you personally and pray them back to God.



## Day 6

Praise should always precede petition. Read Psalm 28:6-9. What hymns or songs are your favorite ones to use in praise? Sing them as prayers to God.



## Day 7

Prayers of praise help raise us above the concerns of this world. Read Colossians 3:1-4. Use your prayer time to "set your mind on things above, where Christ is."



## Day 8

We cannot love ourselves or others until we grasp God's love for us. Read John 13:34-35 and Psalm 103:8-12. Pray the truths of Psalm 103:8-12 until they begin to creep into the crevices of your soul!



## Day 9

God has done and is doing so much for us! Read Psalm 103:1-6. Spend time in prayer, humbly being thankful for all that God has done for you.



## Day 10

The RCA overflows with examples of God's generational covenant faithfulness. Read Psalm 103:15-18. Give thanks for those who passed the faith on to you, and pray for opportunities to pass it on to future generations.



## Day 11

God has given each of us a faith story to tell. Read Psalm 78:1-4. Thank God for your unique story, and then ask for opportunities to share that story with others in ways that will draw them to God.

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## Day 12

For some, remembering the RCA's story evokes strong emotions. Read Psalm 137. Be honest with your emotions as you pour them out in prayer.



## Day 13

How we act on our emotions matters to God. Read Ephesians 4:25-32. Ask the Holy Spirit to enable all General Synod delegates to live out these very practical commands.



## Day 14

We can only truly love each other when we allow the love of Jesus to flow into and through us. Read Galatians 2:20. Prayerfully ask God to help you live and love by faith.



## Day 15

It can be discouraging to see the lack of the unity for which Christ prayed. Read John 17:20-23 and Psalm 130. Pray for the patience of Psalm 130:5, but also invite God to show you that which is in you that may be hindering this unity Christ desires.



## Day 16

Many psalms question God's ways and timing, yet end with a statement of faith. Read Psalm 13. In your prayer, dare to be honest with your questions of God, especially in regards to the state of our denomination, but in faith, end where the psalmist ends.



## Day 17

Today continues the theme of yesterday. Read Psalm 22. In prayer, lament what you believe to be wrong about the RCA, but in faith, end your prayer with the hope expressed in verses 30-31.



## Day 18

Many believe that this year's General Synod will mark the end of the RCA as we know it. Read Psalm 116. Pray through this psalm, focusing on God, but being honest with your hopes and fears.



## Day 19

The psalms have a great way of taking us from grief to hope, from despair to joy. Read Psalm 30. Ask God to make these verses come alive at General Synod this year.



## Day 20

Sometimes the wisest action we can take is to step back to regain perspective. Read Psalm 90. Pray that God would satisfy you each morning with God's unfailing love, and that the favor of the Lord would rest on all, including those whose opinions differ from yours.



## Day 21

The right perspective brings hope. Read Psalm 91. Pray that all delegates, and all churches, would have the faith and wisdom to rest in the shadow of the Almighty.



## Day 22

It is important to keep going back to the basics, reminding ourselves that salvation comes from God alone. Read Psalm 62:1-8 and Ephesians 2:7-10. Using the words of Psalm 62:1-2, take time to thank God for the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

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## Day 23

While it's easy to see the sins and errors in thinking in others, it's essential to see them in ourselves. Read Psalm 51. Use this psalm to invite God to help you see deep inside your own heart, trusting in God's grace to forgive and cleanse you.



## Day 24

It's a beautiful comfort to realize that God's intimate knowledge of us is based on a foundation of grace! Read Psalm 139. Use the prayer of verses 23-24 as your personal prayer as you prepare for whatever lies ahead.



## Day 25

Having looked inside ourselves—and allowing God to look inside us—we are prepared to look outward the way God desires. Read Philippians 2:1-4. In prayer, humbly ask God to help you see the value in all others, not just those who agree with you.



## Day 26

What a goal—to have the same attitude as Christ Jesus! Read Philippians 2:5-11. Invite God to make this a reality in your life.



## Day 27

We have been preparing ourselves for General Synod, which is often a roller coaster of events and emotions, of hopes and fears. Now, General Synod is here. Read Psalm 40. Make this prayer of David your personal prayer, expectantly waiting for the words of verse 3 to become reality.



## Day 28

As synod convenes, may the encouragements of Scripture encourage us. Read Hebrews 10:19-25. Pray that out of a cleansed heart, with an unswerving faith, God would use you to spur someone on to love and good deeds today.



## Day 29

No matter what is occurring at General Synod, God is not changed. Read Psalm 46. Read it prayerfully a second time, and then put into practice the command of verse 10.



## Day 30

Remember that synod is about following God's will, not our own will. Read Matthew 6:9-13. Pray that God's will be done.



## Day 31

Remember who you are, a living stone in a spiritual house. Read 1 Peter 2:1-10. Ask God to help you live out the identity that has been given you.



## Day 32

Remember who you are, a member of one body, the church. Read Ephesians 4:1-6. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you live into the unity God has declared you to have.



## Day 33

No matter the outcome of General Synod, the realities of heaven have not changed. Read Revelation 7:9-10. Thank God for the diverse crowd of worshipers before the throne of God, and recommit yourself to working for that kingdom all the rest of your days.