

# FOUNDED ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

## Introduction to the 40-Day Prayer Guide

Synod 2026 of the Christian Reformed Church in North America will gather in 40 days, focusing on the Psalms-based theme of worship and prayer “Founded on God’s Faithfulness.” The bedrock foundation of the Psalms is God’s faithfulness. Only in God can there be a renewed CRCNA. Only through God’s Spirit and God’s Word can we become a denomination of renewed and multiplying congregations.

This theme also connects with the 150th-anniversary celebration of Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary this year.

You’re invited to join in this 40-day journey with themes from the Psalms:

- Seeking God’s Presence (May 3-7)
- Praising God’s Faithfulness (May 8-12)
- Trusting in Hard Times (May 13-17)
- Thankfulness (May 18-22)
- Trusting in Uncertainty (May 23-27)
- God’s Sovereignty (May 28-June 1)
- Dependence on God (June 2-6)
- Going Forth (June 7-11)

As we pray through these themes, I pray that you may experience the presence of God through the prayers written by CRC missionaries, pastors, staff, and various members young and old—in many languages (and with English translations)—reflecting the beautiful diversity of the CRC.

The authors of these prayers hope that you will find in them a gracious, generous, loving, and longing perspective, and that together we may be reminded that the Lord is always walking with us on our journey.

—Jon Hoekema

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026 - DAY 1

# Seeking God's Presence

Suggested Bible Reading: Psalm 63:1-5

You, God, are my God,  
earnestly I seek you;  
I thirst for you,  
my whole being longs for you,  
in a dry and parched land  
where there is no water.  
I have seen you in the sanctuary  
and beheld your power and your glory.

Because your love is better than life,  
my lips will glorify you.  
I will praise you as long as I live,  
and in your name I will lift up my hands.  
I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods;  
with singing lips my mouth will praise you.

## Prayer

*By Jon Hoekema, CRC prayer shepherd and pastor of Horizon Community Church,  
Downers Grove, Illinois*

Lord God, we praise you with hands lifted up because  
you are worthy of being sought,  
you quench our thirst with living water,  
you satisfy our deepest longings,  
you are present with your people,  
you show us your power and glory, and  
your love is better than life.  
We praise you and lift up your name as long as we live.

Because you are present, we pray that we will see your presence  
in the weeks ahead until synod,  
in the gathering of delegates, CRC staff, and others, and  
in the work of synod that we do together.

May we long and thirst for you, more than anything else.

We pray  
that your will may be done above our own desires,  
for your leading and guidance, and  
that we will have ears to hear and eyes to see you.

We pray these things so that together we may praise you as the only one we seek.

## Questions for Reflection and/or Conversation

- In what ways do you long more and more for the presence of God?
- Where do you see God bringing satisfaction to your life?

# FOUNDED ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026 - DAY 2

## Seeking God's Presence

Suggested Bible Reading:

(Arabic)

المزامير 15

مَنْ يَقْدِرُ أَنْ يَسْكُنَ فِي خَيْمَتِكَ يَا اللَّهُ؟  
مَنْ يَقْدِرُ أَنْ يَسْكُنَ فِي جَبَلِكَ الْمُقَدَّسِ؟  
أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ يَحْيُونَ بِالِاسْتِقَامَةِ وَيَفْعَلُونَ الصَّوَابَ  
وَيَتَكَلَّمُونَ بِالصِّدْقِ مِنْ قُلُوبِهِمْ  
الَّذِينَ لَا يَفْتَرُونَ عَلَى الْقَرِيبِ  
وَلَا يُسَيِّئُونَ إِلَى الْأَصْحَابِ  
وَلَا يَرْوَجُونَ لِلْأَقَاوِيلِ عَلَى الْجِيرَانِ  
يَحْتَقِرُونَ الْأَشْرَارَ الَّذِينَ رَفَضَهُمُ اللَّهُ  
وَيُكْرِمُونَ مَنْ يَهَابُونَ اللَّهَ  
الَّذِينَ يَفُونَ بِوَعْدِهِمْ، حَتَّىٰ وَإِنْ ضَرَّهُمْ ذَلِكَ  
أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ يُقْرِضُونَ بِلَا مُقَابِلٍ  
وَلَا يَقْبَلُونَ الرِّشْوَةَ لِأَدَى الْأَبْرِيَاءِ  
مَنْ يَفْعَلْ هَذِهِ كُلَّهَا لَا يَسْفُطُ أَبَدًا

Psalms 15

Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent?  
Who may live on your holy mountain?

The one whose walk is blameless,  
who does what is righteous,

who speaks the truth from their heart;  
whose tongue utters no slander,  
who does no wrong to a neighbor,  
and casts no slur on others;  
who despises a vile person  
but honors those who fear the Lord;  
who keeps an oath even when it hurts,  
and does not change their mind;  
who lends money to the poor without interest;  
who does not accept a bribe against the innocent.

Whoever does these things  
will never be shaken.

## أعد (Prayer)

صلاة من وحي مزمور 15

أيها الرب الإله، نأتي أمامك في هذا اليوم — ليس لأننا مستحقون أن نسكن في جبل قدسك، بل لأن ابنك وحده هو السالك بالكمال. لقد سلك بلا لوم، وعمل الحق، وتكلم بالصدق في قلبه بطرق لم نسلكها نحن. لقد أسأنا إلى أصحابنا وأقاربنا. نحن شركاء في فساد ثقافتنا، وقد انتفعنا منه. وقد أضعفنا شهادة الكنيسة بتراجعنا وفشلنا في التأديب والمساءلة. اسمع صلاتنا، نطلب، من أجله

ومع ذلك، نعلم أنك قد أدرجتنا في جسد ابنك، ولذا نأتي بامتنان — كأفراد وكنائس، وكقادة وأعضاء في الكنيسة المصلحة المسيحية — مشتاقين للسكن معك، والعيش في القداسة والعدل والتواضع. امنحنا النعمة لنعكس أمانتك نحس بأنك تدعونا لأن نوسّع أعيننا لرؤية ما تفعله، وأن نُدرك ونقدّر مواهب الكنيسة العالمية — لغات أخرى، ثقافات أخرى — وأن نرى عمك وسط مجتمعات المغتربين والمهاجرين يُضاعف كنائس جديدة في أمريكا الشمالية وما وراءها

أعنا على إرسال مندوبين يفهمون التحديات التي نواجهها، ولديهم رؤية لتلك المضاعفة، لإعلاء مجدك. قدنا كطائفة، كمجامع وكنائس محلية، في موجة من التجديد — ليأتي ملكوتك، ولنتعاون معك ومعاً في التقدم بها. نشناق لأن نعكس صورة ابنك وأمانته أمام العالم. قد وعدت أن الذي يصنع هذا لا يتزعزع إلى الدهر في اسم يسوع، أمين

## Prayer

*By Naji Umran, Middle East regional leader for Resonate Global Mission*

Lord God, we come before you this day—not because we are worthy to dwell on your holy hill, but because your Son alone is righteous. He has walked blamelessly, done what is right, and spoken truth from his heart in ways we have not. We have wronged our neighbors. We are complicit in, and have benefited from, the

corruption of our culture. We have weakened the witness of the church through our decline and our failures in discipline and accountability. Hear our prayer, we ask, for his sake.

Yet we know that you have included us in the body of your Son, so we come with gratitude—as individuals and churches, as leaders and members in the Christian Reformed Church in North America—longing to dwell with you, to live in holiness, in justice, and in humility. Give us the grace to reflect your faithfulness.

We sense that you are calling us to widen our eyes to what you are doing, to become aware and appreciative of the gifts of the global church—other languages, other cultures—and to see your work among diaspora and immigrant communities multiplying new congregations across North America and beyond.

Help us to send delegates who understand the challenges we face, and who have a vision for that multiplication, to bring glory to your name. Guide us as a denomination, as classes and congregations, in a wave of renewal—that your kingdom will come and that we may cooperate in its advance.

We long to reflect the image of your Son and his truthfulness before the world. Those who do these things, you have promised, “will never be shaken.”

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

## Questions for Reflection and/or Conversation

- In what ways are you longing to dwell in holiness, justice and humility? Where are you living that out?
- Where, or for what situation, are you praying for God’s kingdom to come?

# FOUNDED ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026 - DAY 3

## Seeking God's Presence

Suggested Bible Reading: Psalm 24

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,  
the world, and all who live in it;  
for he founded it on the seas  
and established it on the waters.

Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?  
Who may stand in his holy place?  
The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not trust in an idol  
or swear by a false god.

They will receive blessing from the Lord  
and vindication from God their Savior.  
Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
who seek your face, God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, you gates;  
be lifted up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord strong and mighty,  
the Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, you gates;  
lift them up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?  
The Lord Almighty—  
he is the King of glory.

# Prayer

*By Kaydence Schultz, who shares, "I am nine years old. Lying in the hayfield, watching the clouds go by, is my happy place; it calms me. I also really love riding my horses."*

Dear God,

Thank you for all of our blessings; I am amazed by the beauty of our world every day. Thank you for the oceans, lakes, beaches, forests, rivers, and mountains. They supply us with everything we need.

Please help everyone to trust in you and your promises for us. Lord, you really do provide for us in every way; you are merciful, mighty, and loving. Please forgive us for our sins, big or small. Please heal everyone who is sick, comfort everyone who is sad, and give courage to everyone who is scared.

I pray for everyone who does not know you, to hear the great news and find a path that leads to your amazing salvation. I also pray for everyone in this world to know God and to praise him every day in all that they do.

Thank you for making brave people who travel a long way to share your Word. Lord, please watch over and protect your children. Help us to be wise in our decisions and help us to share the good news of Jesus. Thank you so much for forever life; it is the greatest gift ever. Please hear our prayers; in Jesus' name we pray.

Amen!

## Questions for Reflection and/or Conversation

- Where do you slow down to encounter the Lord?
- Where do you see blessing in your life from seeking God?

# FOUNDED ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026 - DAY 4

## Seeking God's Presence

Suggested Bible Reading:

(Spanish) Salmos 27:1

El Señor es mi luz y mi salvación;

¿a quién temeré?

El Señor es el baluarte de mi vida;

¿quién me asustará?

Psalm 27:1

The Lord is my light and my salvation—  
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life—  
of whom shall I be afraid?

## Oración (Prayer)

Dios fiel,

Venimos delante de ti sostenidos por la certeza que proclama el Salmo 27: tú eres nuestra luz y nuestra salvación; ¿de quién temeremos? En medio de estaciones cambiantes, decisiones complejas y realidades diversas dentro de tu iglesia, confesamos que nuestra seguridad no descansa en estructuras humanas, sino en tu presencia constante y en tu fidelidad que no falla.

Hoy, como tu pueblo, hacemos nuestra la oración del salmista: una cosa hemos pedido al Señor, y esa buscaremos: habitar en tu casa todos los días de nuestra vida, contemplar tu hermosura y buscarte en tu morada. Anhelamos más que respuestas

rápidas; deseamos tu rostro. Más que estrategias, buscamos tu voz. Más que control, necesitamos tu paz.

Reconocemos que atravesamos distintas estaciones: algunos con gozo, otros con cansancio; algunos con esperanza renovada, otros con heridas que aún necesitan sanidad. En todas ellas, tú sigues siendo el mismo Dios fiel que nos resguarda en el día de la angustia y nos esconde bajo el abrigo de tu presencia. Enséñanos a esperar en ti cuando el camino no es claro y a confiar cuando el temor intenta hablar más fuerte que la fe.

Forma en nosotros corazones humildes y enseñables. Danos la mente de Cristo, dispuesta a escuchar, a reconciliar y a amar con paciencia y verdad. Guíanos por tu Espíritu como iglesia a caminar juntos, no buscando nuestra voluntad, sino discerniendo la tuya.

Afirmados en tu fidelidad, levantamos nuestros ojos y declaramos: esperaremos en el Señor; nos fortaleceremos y nuestro corazón cobrará ánimo, porque tú estás con nosotros.

En el nombre de Jesús,

Amén.

## Prayer

*By Mclowlly “Mac” Soré, a commissioned pastor in the Christian Reformed Church and a church planter with Resonate Global Mission. With over 30 years of ministry experience, he currently serves in Milwaukee, Wis., planting Vive Church Milwaukee among Spanish-speaking communities. Mac is passionate about prayer, discipleship, and holistic mission that connects the gospel with faithful presence in the city.*

Faithful God,

We come before you upheld by the confidence proclaimed in Psalm 27: you are our light and our salvation—whom shall we fear? In the midst of changing seasons, complex decisions, and diverse realities within your church, we confess that our security does not rest in human structures but in your constant presence and in your unfailing faithfulness.

Today, as your people, we make the psalmist’s prayer our own: one thing we ask from the Lord, this only do we seek: to dwell in your house all the days of our lives, to gaze upon your beauty and to seek you in your dwelling place (Ps. 27:4). We long

for more than quick answers; we desire your face. More than strategies, we seek your voice. More than control, we need your peace.

We acknowledge that we are in different seasons of life: some with joy, others with weariness; some with renewed hope, others carrying wounds still in need of healing. In all of these seasons you remain the same faithful God who shelters us in times of trouble and hides us in the refuge of your presence. Teach us to wait for you when the path is unclear and to trust you when fear tries to speak louder than faith.

Shape in us humble and teachable hearts. Form in us the mind of Christ—ready to listen, to reconcile, and to love with patience and truth. By your Spirit, guide us as your church to walk together, not seeking our own will but discerning yours.

Grounded in your faithfulness, we lift our eyes and declare: we will wait for the Lord; we will be strong, and our hearts will take courage, for you are with us.

In the name of Jesus,

Amen.

## Questions for Reflection and/or Conversation

- In what ways have you seen God's constant presence and unfailing faithfulness in your life?
- Where do you need courage to be strong and not be afraid?

# FOUNDED ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026 - DAY 5

## Seeking God's Presence

Suggested Bible Reading: Psalm 84:1-2

How lovely is your dwelling place,  
Lord Almighty!  
My soul yearns, even faints,  
for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh cry out  
for the living God.

### Prayer

*By Chad Scholtens, a pre-seminary student at Calvin University studying music and philosophy. He notes, "Since my youth, I have attended LaGrave Avenue CRC in Grand Rapids, Mich., a place for which I am grateful."*

Lord of hosts, we come to you in prayer as beings who aspire to feel your presence in all things. May we see you in the beauty of creation, reminding us of your artistry; may we hear you in the swell of singing and playing; and may we feel you through love exhibited to us by both friend and stranger.

It is our prayer, O Lord, that you would guide our feet onto paths of peace wherever and with whomever you see fit. As each of us prepares our hearts to discern these paths, instill in us avenues of love, strength, and trust in you and one another.

We humbly recognize, O Lord, our capacities and finitude, yet we pray that you will instill in us the drive to make this church, nation, and earth a place of springs.

Lord, while we know that your name is the path of blessing, we humbly and honestly admit that in many instances we struggle to recognize how your presence can dwell in our world amid the problems it continues to face.

Spiritual, political, and ideological tensions rise in our own country and church, and the polarization of friend and neighbor grows dangerously near normalcy. Charge us, O Lord, in this community and in all, with the drive to see you in others, for the beauty you bring through others is to be cherished.

Lord, in every essence, may we cry out to you for guidance to paths of peace with all peoples. It is our prayer, therefore, that you would penetrate our hearts and minds and establish your lovely dwelling place among us, for better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere. It is in the name of the Lord God Almighty that we pray.

Amen.

## Questions for Reflection and/or Conversation

- Where do you need to see the beauty that God brings through others, even those different from you?
- In what part of your life are you crying out for the presence of the living God? Ask the Spirit to help you see the Lord in that area of your life.

# FOUNDED ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026 - DAY 6

## Praising God's Faithfulness

Suggested Bible Reading: Psalm 19:1-4

The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.  
Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they reveal knowledge.  
They have no speech, they use no words;  
no sound is heard from them.  
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world.

### Prayer

*By Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot, who serves as the Canadian representative for Global Coffee Break, working from her farm in southern Ontario. A former agricultural journalist and long-term member and leader of Global Coffee Break at local churches, Lisa has six children and three grandchildren. She attends Trinity CRC in Goderich, Ontario.*

O Creator God, who made the sun and the sky—they speak of your glory! They show how powerful and beautiful and life-giving you are. They tell of your warmth and your vast love. Every time we look to the skies, we are reminded that you are pure, radiant, righteous, and wise.

Who can create light? Who can create sunbeams that stretch from heaven to earth? Who can create warm energy that unlocks the secrets of seeds and the moisture from the earth? Only a God with a beautiful plan, a God who desires that his people may live, thrive, and share that light with each other. In nature we are amazed at what your hands have done. We know that it is good, because you are good. You have dominion over the earth, and you rule over our hearts and minds.

When we feel sinful and act in darkness, we can look to Jesus for salvation. In him we find freedom, and in your Spirit we seek wisdom for the work ahead. May the words of our mouths be pleasing in your sight, our Rock and Redeemer.

Amen.

## Questions for Reflection and/or Conversation

- In the Belgic Confession (Art. 2) we read that God has given us the created universe to serve as his first book, a “beautiful book” in which everything prompts us to ponder the invisible things of God. What is God teaching you about himself and his ways as you walk through your backyard or neighborhood park, consider the inner workings of your physical body, and marvel at the far reaches of space?
- Which elements of creation speak especially to you of God’s faithfulness? How might you worship God and thank him for the faithfulness he reveals in his creation?

# FOUNDED ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026 - DAY 7

## Praising God's Faithfulness

Suggested Bible Reading: Psalm 29:1-4

Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.  
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the Lord thunders over the mighty waters.  
The voice of the Lord is powerful;  
the voice of the Lord is majestic.

## Prayer

*By Ben Wimmers, pastor of youth and family at Living Hope CRC in Abbotsford, British Columbia. Rain or shine, you will often find Ben outside with his wife and two daughters, either at the local playground or exploring the many trails around Abbotsford.*

Glorious Lord God, we pray that through our actions and thoughts you will always be seen as holy and majestic. You have faithfully sustained your church across the centuries, and your voice has prevailed through the ages. As we look ahead to the gathering of CRC churches at synod, we call upon you, God, to show us your glory and strength. May we take every opportunity to worship you.

Help us to embrace our own weaknesses, God. Too often we hope that our own strength will be enough, that through our strength people will see our God as strong and holy. We are too quick to think that we are the ones that sustain your church, that we cause it to grow and mature.

Help us to embrace our weakness. Remind us that your “grace is sufficient for [us], for [your] power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor. 12:9).

Help us to still our voices. Remind us that “the voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic” (Ps. 29:4).

We ask that you continue to be the one who “gives strength to his people . . . [and blesses] his people with peace” (Ps. 29:11).

Instill in us a sense of wonder at your faithfulness, and equip us to do the work of your kingdom by teaching us to follow your voice, your strength, and your holiness.

Amen.

## Questions for Reflection and/or Conversation

- *Embrace: befriend, accept, enjoy, and make space for.* What can you do today to embrace your weakness before God? Think of visible, physical reminders that you can place in strategic locations so that you are regularly reminded of your need for him.
- *Ascribe: to acknowledge and declare that a particular virtue, quality, or characteristic is found abundantly in someone.* For example, I ascribe intelligence to Albert Einstein. I ascribe sleepiness to a toddler at bedtime. What kinds of stories might we remember that ascribe power and glory to God? Or how about verses we might recite? What might we say to ourselves (and others) regularly that ascribe power and glory to God?