Prayer Guide for 2018 CRC/RCA Synods

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**PRAISE FOR GOD’S PRESENCE, PROTECTION, AND POWER**

**Scripture:** the Psalmist’s worship, Psalm 115:1,12-13

Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory because of your love and faithfulness. The Lord has remembered us...he will bless those who fear the LORD, both the small and the great.

**Prayer:**

Praise God for his presence in our lives for centuries, his faithfulness new every morning, and these days of seeing his power at work among those who fear him for his glory.

Praise God for the 2018 CRC/RCA Joint Synods in worship and partnership for a greater, Christ-centered, global impact.

 Praise God for His presence, protection and power at work in the gathered synod participants, in all the represented North American churches, in their mission efforts and the church worldwide.

**THANKSGIVING FOR GOD’S PEOPLE**

**Scripture:** as the Apostle Paul prayed, Philippians 1:3-6

We thank God on every remembrance of you...making requests for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ...

**Prayer:**

Thank God joyfully for the fellowship in the gospel shared between each synod participant; staff member, support person, guest, and prayer partner.

Thank God for the staff’s preparation to meet the physical needs of all participants.

Pray synod participants will sense and rejoice in their unique privilege to serve Christ and his kingdom by their engagement at synod.

Pray for renewal during these days, protection from weariness in well doing, and strength and health for all participants and staff to meet the rigorous schedule.

Pray for families back home to be safe and caregivers to be empowered for joyful service.

**INTERCESSION FOR UNITY AMONG GOD’S PEOPLE**

# Scripture: as the Apostle Paul prayed, Ephesians 4:4-6

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

**Prayer:**

Pray that we may focus our thoughts, wills, words and actions on God’s will in ways that reflect our one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all—a focus well beyond our own agendas.

Pray that our denominations will unite on the essentials of our faith, give liberty in the non-essentials and have the charity and grace of Christ toward all persons and in all deliberations.

Pray our united 2018 CRC/RCA Synods move us still further toward Christ’s call, echoed in the intercession of generations past, to replace disunity and divisive factions with the intentional harmony to which Christ and the apostles call us.

**INTERCESSION FOR GOD’S PEOPLE TO HOLD FAST TO GOD’S WORD**

# Scripture: as the Apostle Paul instructs, II Timothy 3:14-17

 As for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it,and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work**.**

**Prayer:**

Thank God that His words to us are God-breathed—far above the compilation of man’s thoughts or experiences.

Pray that all of us will hold fast to Scripture, which is able to make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Pray that God will bring forward and prosper the voices that hold fast to Scripture, without wavering.

Pray that our hearts will burn with desire for His Word to be our focus and His Will to be done.

**INTERCESSION FOR FAITH AND FULLNESS AMONG GOD’S PEOPLE**

#  Scripture: as the Apostle Paul instructs, Ephesians 4:12-13

 [Christ gave gifts]...”to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” (Synod Agenda Preface p. 7)

**Prayer:**

Pray that each one may constantly and readily receive the equipping of the Spirit of Christ for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Pray that we may be humble, gentle, patient, bearing with each other in love, and making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:1-3

Pray that each of us may be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

 James 1:19-20

Pray that each of us may receive the power of the Holy Spirit to be His witnesses in North America and to the global community. Acts 1:8

Pray for true and continual partnership in the CRC/RCA joint synodical mission toward greater, Christ-centered global impact through the fullness of Christ and for the Glory of Christ.

Janiece Swets, Pillar Church, Holland