

Pray for GA

A four-week preparation

Week 1
May 9-15
2022

As friends, members, adherents, elders and ministers in The Presbyterian Church in Canada, we are fervently praying for the 147th General Assembly, to be held online June 5-8, 2022.

We are praying in advance for the commissioners, the moderator, the clerks, the General Assembly Office and all of those who have a role of some influence on the gathering. We are praying for God's holy hands to prepare us for something new. It might be something counter-cultural. But we submit ourselves to something that is entirely in God's holy will, something that conforms to the authentic and timeless reading of scripture.

This is the first of four weekly prayer guides leading up to the gathering. We invite you to consider setting aside a designated time each day to pray. Feel free to share insights with others who are praying on our dedicated Facebook page, search "Pray for GA 2022."

This week's prayer guide is authored by Renewal Fellowship executive director Rev. Andy Cornell.

Join us in our GA Prayer Room June 5-8, which will open at least 30 minutes prior to each sederunt. It will remain open while GA is in session and afterwards for discussion and debriefing for commissioners. Link will be distributed the week of May 30.

All are welcome.



Pray for the PCC

Let us begin with . . .

Timeless, ancient prayer

Our God, God of all men [and women]
God of heaven and earth, seas and rivers,
God of sun and moon, of all the stars,
God of high mountain and lowly valley,
God over heaven, and in heaven, and under heaven.

He has a dwelling in heaven and earth and sea
and in all things that are in them.

He inspires all things, he quickens all things.

He is over all things, he supports all things.

He makes the light of the sun to shine,

He surrounds the moon and the stars,

He has made wells in the arid earth,

Placed dry islands in the sea.

He has a Son co-eternal with himself...

And the Holy Spirit breathes in them;

Not separate are the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Patrick c389-46

This week's theme: worship

The Lord's Prayer, which is our purest instruction, begins with words of adoration. "Hallowed be Your name," is etched in our memories. Even those who never set foot in church know it somehow. From childhood? From TV and movies? The words are iconic.

The word "Hallowed" is translated from the Greek "hagiaz6" (hag-ee-ad'-zo) in Matthew 6:9 and Luke 11:2. It's defined as "to make holy, consecrate, sanctify." Clearly, we cannot "make" God into anything. (Basic definitions are broad.) In this context, The Lord is inviting us to "render or acknowledge" the Father as "venerable." Some other translations use the word "holy." The essential purpose is to treat God's name as sacred, reflecting who He is. Nothing is higher, greater, more powerful and loving.

Take a moment and search for the song "Name above all names" which was written by Naida Hearn. Close your eyes and take in the words, especially the chorus:



Jesus, name above all names
Beautiful Saviour, Glorious Lord
Emmanuel, God is with us
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word

The heart of worship is to bow down in a visible act of submission and give God the glory. This is the primary act of the church. Ideally, it's where we begin and how we roll. Our prayer is that General Assembly may have this heart of worship at its core.

A prayer guide for the week to come:

Monday – Holy God, we boldly ask that you work in the hearts and minds of all commissioners as they begin to read the reports. May they take time to be still before you in an act of worship before opening their eyes and reading the words.

Tuesday – Father, we worship you in song. We ask that the spirits of those who are preparing music for General Assembly be attuned to the heart and mind of Christ.

Wednesday – Father, we worship you by celebrating your Holy Word. We ask that those who are called to preach and meditate during General Assembly be open to the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Thursday – Holy Lord, we commend to you the spirit of the moderator; grant your servant the fervent desire to lead the court as if he was leading worship. May he have the mind of Christ and in the next four weeks the opportunity to prepare body and spirit for the rigours of the Assembly.

Friday – Gracious God, we lift up the clerks of Assembly. Instill in them the desire to frame all opinions in submission to your Holiness. May they be reminded of the heart of our polity and be reacquainted with the spirit of the law; grant them also with the time to prepare body, mind and spirit.

Saturday – Jehovah Jireh, we give you thanks for the technology which allows us to gather online. May your Spirit flow in these invisible lines of communication, that they may be seen and treated as instruments of sacred worship.

Sunday – Father, as we gather in your house on this day of rest, we are reminded that formal worship consists of many parts, all of which combine to give glory to all aspects of your Being. In the same way, may Assembly be complete and may no prophetic voice be silenced by omission or technical exclusion.

Amen.