

40 DAYS OF PRAYER

Introduction:

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness.

For we do not know what to pray for as we ought,

but the Spirit himself intercedes for us

with sighs too deep for words. Romans 8:26

Friends, the world in which we live is a complicated one, and the complexities of the church stymie us all the more because we are so close to the situation. What is right, what is wrong, what can we do... Answers to these questions are beyond us. But God is with us. We may not know the solutions or what to say, but God knows the best intentions of our hearts. Offer to God the fullness of our hearts.

Scripture, Devotion and Prayer:

“Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrew 10:19-25, NRSV)

This passage from Hebrews sounds like a road map to Pittsburgh. As we begin to pack our suitcases, we can be sure to include:

confidence because of the death of Christ

a new and living way because of Christ’s resurrection

a great priest to lead us

full assurance of faith and the confidence of our baptism

the **confession of our hope**

the **faithfulness** of the One who has promised us these things.

Once we arrive in Pittsburgh, our job is simple: to meet together, to encourage each other, and to call out from one another love and good deeds. Somehow, our faithful God will take care of the rest.

Faithful God, who has created for us a New Way through your son Jesus, be with us on the road to Pittsburgh for this General Assembly. You have promised to be present where two or more of us are gathered. Strengthen us in our baptism, and be with us each time we break bread, that as we meet together in your name only love and good deeds will abound. For it is in the name of your Son that we ask it, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sallie Watson, Regional Presbyter/Stated Clerk
Santa Fe and Sierra Blanca Presbyteries**