



First Christian Reformed Church of Lynden
From Generation to Generation for the Glory of God

God's precious and exceedingly great promises in hard times

Colossians 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

Scripture

Hebrews 4:12 *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

Psalm 71:1-21

- ¹ In you, O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame!
- ² In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me, and save me!
- ³ Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come;
you have given the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.
- ⁴ Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man.
- ⁵ For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth.
- ⁶ Upon you I have leaned from before my birth;
you are he who took me from my mother's womb.
My praise is continually of you.
- ⁷ I have been as a portent to many, but you are my strong refuge.
- ⁸ My mouth is filled with your praise, and with your glory all the day.
- ⁹ Do not cast me off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength is spent.
- ¹⁰ For my enemies speak concerning me; those who watch for my life consult together
- ¹¹ and say, "God has forsaken him; pursue and seize him, for there is none to deliver him."
- ¹² O God, be not far from me; O my God, make haste to help me!
- ¹³ May my accusers be put to shame and consumed;
with scorn and disgrace may they be covered who seek my hurt.
- ¹⁴ But I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more.
- ¹⁵ My mouth will tell of your righteous acts,
of your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge.
- ¹⁶ With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come;
I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.
- ¹⁷ O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.
- ¹⁸ So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,
until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.
- ¹⁹ Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens.
You who have done great things, O God, who is like you?
- ²⁰ You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will revive me again;
from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again.
- ²¹ You will increase my greatness and comfort me again.

Song

Psalm 59:16 *But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.*

[You can Google the hymn to hear it if you would like to sing along.]

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.

Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come:
O be our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

Prayer

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,
that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Pray for God's perfect, sovereign will to be done and His purposes to be accomplished in our own hearts, in our families, in our nation and in our world. Pray God will expose sin and idols and turn many back to Him. Pray God will purify His Church.

Pray specifically for the nations of the world that are most on your heart. Remember the Hausa people of northern Nigeria and ask God to use this crisis to advance the Gospel there.

Pray for mercy, since God is the God who hears our cries for mercy (Psalm 28:9).

Pray God will give wisdom to all the leaders, that they will seek His guidance, and that they will navigate these difficult times in a way that honors God and helps the people.

Pray for those who are sick, for protection for the healthy, and for the healthcare workers.

Pray for the protection of the economic engines of each country that is affected.

Pray this time of fear and instability will open doors for the sharing of the Gospel with family members, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and others who do not yet know Jesus.

Pray the Name of Jesus will be lifted up during this pandemic, and He will be recognized for who He Is.

Finally, pray a prayer of thanks for who God is and what He has done and is doing, knowing He is at work, and all His ways are perfect, good, wise and best.