

# 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**

Reflections in Scripture on revival and times of renewal and refreshing.

**II Chronicles 7:14** if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Psalm 85:4-7 Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!

- <sup>5</sup>Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
- <sup>6</sup> Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?
- <sup>7</sup> Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

**Isaiah 57:15** For thus says the One who is high and lifted up,

who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:

"I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.

**Joel 2:28-29** And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

<sup>29</sup> Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

**Acts 3:19-20** Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup> that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,

**James 4:8** Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

# 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.]

## Shine, Jesus, Shine

Lord, the light of your love is shining In the midst of the darkness, shining Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us Set us free by the truth you now bring us Shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus: Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory

Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire

Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy

Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

Lord, I come to your awesome presence From the shadows into your radiance By the blood I may enter your brightness Search me, try me, consume all my darkness Shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus: Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory

Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire

Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy

Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me. *Chorus* 

("Shine, Jesus, Shine" words and music by Graham Kendrick © 1987 Make Way Music CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

## **Prayer**

II Chronicles 7:14 If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

#### I. Remember and rejoice in the character of God.

Reflect and meditate on the character of God: he is all powerful, all knowing, never-changing, ever-present, full of loving-kindness, mercy and grace toward all who call on his name.

Psalm 27:1-2 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?

## II. Pray about your specific fears.

Express your fears, anxieties, and concerns to the Lord. Pour out your heart to him. Seek his face and ask for him to hide you in his shelter during this time of trouble.

**Psalm 27:3-5** Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;

though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

<sup>4</sup>One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,

to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

<sup>5</sup> For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

## III. Sing a song of praise to God.

Sing or listen to a hymn, song, or psalm. As you do, reflect on the Lord's good- ness, and ask him to help you trust him with your fears.

**Psalm 27:6** And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

## IV. Pray for your community and world.

Pray for the needs of the world around you: family members, neighbors, medical workers, governing officials, those who are suffering financially, and those who are sick. Ask the Lord to sustain, provide, heal, and guide. Ask him to give his people endurance, wisdom, and hope.

Psalm 27:7 Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

## V. Pray for those who do not know the Lord.

Consider those in your life who do not know the Lord. Pray that they would seek the Lord during this pandemic. Ask the Lord to open their eyes, ears, minds, and hearts to the truth of his Word. Pray that they would turn to the Lord and find salvation, refuge, and help.

Psalm 27:8-10 You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you,

"Your face, LORD, do I seek."

<sup>9</sup> Hide not your face from me.

Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help.

Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!

<sup>10</sup> For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the LORD will take me in.

## VI. Ask the Lord to teach you and protect you.

Pray for protection—both physically and spiritually. Ask the Lord to use this time of crisis to draw you closer to him and teach you more about his Word and his ways.

## Psalm 27:11-12

- <sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.
- <sup>12</sup> Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;

for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.

#### VII. Ask the Lord for endurance.

We do not know how long this trial will last. Pray that the Lord will conquer this virus quickly. Also pray for endurance to stand in the midst of the trial, however long you may be called to endure.

#### Psalm 27:13-14

- <sup>13</sup> I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!
- <sup>14</sup> Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Spend some time meditating on what you've been learning through this season.

What is God's Word teaching you? What truths about God are comforting your soul? How is this experience changing you to be more like Christ? What do you what to pray for others and for our nation?