



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 from Scripture on Patience.

Psalm 37:4-9

Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

⁵ *Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.*

⁶ *He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.*

⁷ *Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!*

⁸ *Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.*

⁹ *For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.*

Psalm 40:1-2

I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

² *He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.*

Proverbs 14:29

Whoever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick-tempered displays folly.

Romans 12:12

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

I Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Galatians 5:22-23

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Galatians 6:9

Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Ephesians 4:1-3

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Colossians 3:12-14

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

I Thessalonians 5:14-18

We urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.¹⁵ See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.¹⁶ Rejoice always,¹⁷ pray without ceasing,¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

I Timothy 1:15-16

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

Hebrews 11:13-16

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.¹⁴ For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.¹⁵ If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return.¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

James 5:7-8

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.⁸ You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

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.]

Have Thine Own Way, Lord!

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Thou art the potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after thy will,
while I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Search me and try me, Savior today!
Wash me just now, Lord, wash me just now,
as in thy presence humbly I bow.

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Wounded and weary, help me I pray!
Power, all power, surely is thine!
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Hold o'er my being absolute sway.
Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me!

("Have Thine Own Way, Lord!" words by Adelaide A. Pollard, music by George C. Stebbins © 1907. Renewal 1935 extended. Hope Publishing C. 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.

Holy and eternal Father, clearly your thoughts and ways are far above ours. Clearly you are having your own way in this world. It is almost as if you have stopped the whole world from spinning. You have sent entire economies crashing, businesses are closing, institutions once thought stable are shaking. You have humbled proud and powerful nations. We were so proud of ourselves, we thought everything we have, everything we have gained was the result of our own efforts, that it was all safe in our hands.

You have us running in circles looking for a cure to this disease, and looking to all the experts who are trying to figure it all out. You have silenced the wisdom of the wise. You have made us all bend our knees and acknowledge our desperate dependency on you.

You have even closed your churches that we might realize how ungrateful we have been and how much we have taken for granted. You have shown us how many of our brothers and sister live every day.

We have been living our lives like we will be here forever, like we are in control of our destiny, like nothing bad will ever happen. We have presumed on you, we have put you under our control.

Your Word says that you send affliction and trials to test us and to expose our sin and to purify our hearts and to purge and prune our lives of what is contrary to you and your Word and will. But we don't like it and we are impatient with the process. You have slowed down the world and you have silenced much of the noise that keeps us ignoring your voice.

Holy Father, even after months of this disruption to our lives, you are still patiently waiting for us to turn to you with all our hearts. You are waiting for us to humble ourselves before you and humbly acknowledge we need your wisdom and guidance. Forgive us for ignoring your voice, for hanging on to our selfish ways, for not surrendering all we are and have to you.

Holy Father, may your will be done for your glory. May you bring to completion all you have set out to accomplish for the eternal salvation of our souls.

Deliver us from evil and the evil one, and from ourselves. All this we ask for the sake of Jesus, Amen.