



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 on Joy from the OT.

Nehemiah 8:10 Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Psalms 16:11 You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalms 30:5 For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Psalms 71:23 My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you;
my soul also, which you have redeemed.

Psalms 90:14 Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Psalms 118:24 This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Proverbs 10:28 The hope of the righteous brings joy,
but the expectation of the wicked will perish.

Isaiah 12:6 Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Jeremiah 15:16 Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.

Habakkuk 3:17-18 Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines,
the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food,
the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

[For more insight into Biblical joy, check out the 10 things Pastor Sam Storms says about joy.
<https://www.samstorms.org/all-articles/post/article-10-things-you-should-know-about-joy>]

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.]

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,
All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us,
Brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us Sunward
In the triumph song of life.

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.

“Joy”

A prayer from The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers.

O CHRIST, all your ways of mercy tend to and end in
my delight.

You did weep, sorrow, suffer that I might rejoice.

For my joy you have sent the Comforter,

multiplied your promises,

shown me my future happiness,

given me a living fountain.

You are preparing joy for me and me for joy;

I pray for joy, wait for joy, long for joy;

give me more than I can hold, desire, or think of.

Measure out to me my times and degrees of joy,

at my work, business, duties.

If I weep at night, give me joy in the morning.

Let me rest in the thought of your love,

pardon for sin, my title to heaven,

my future unspotted state.

I am an unworthy recipient of your grace.

I often disesteem your blood and slight your love,

but can in repentance draw water

from the wells of your joyous forgiveness.

Let my heart leap towards the eternal sabbath,

where the work of redemption, sanctification,

preservation, glorification is finished

and perfected forever,

where you will rejoice over me with joy.

There is no joy like the joy of heaven,

for in that state are no sad divisions,

unchristian quarrels,

contentions, evil designs,

weariness, hunger, cold,

sadness, sin, suffering,

persecutions, toils of duty.

O healthful place where none are sick!

O happy land where all are kings!

O holy assembly where all are priests!

How free a state where none are servants

except to thee!

Bring me speedily to the land of joy.