



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 Work on this Labor Day. What has God created us to do and given us to do?

Psalm 90:17 Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

Proverbs 12:11 Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread,
but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.

Proverbs 13:4 The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing,
while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.

Proverbs 16:3 Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought
or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

John 6:27 Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the
Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.

Galatians 6:3-5 For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ But let
each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his
neighbor. ⁵ For each will have to bear his own load.

Galatians 6:9-10 Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give
up. ¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of
the household of faith.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God
prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 4:28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own
hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

Philippians 4:12-13 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every
circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all
things through him who strengthens me.

Colossians 1:10 ... to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every
good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Colossians 3:23-24 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

I Thessalonians 3:10-12 If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹² Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

I Timothy 5:8 If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

I Timothy 6:17-19 As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

Titus 2:13-14 ... waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

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.]

Come, Labor On

Come, labor on.

Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain
while all around us waves the golden grain?
And to each servant does the Master say,
"Go work today."

Come, labor on.

Claim the high calling angels cannot share;
to young and old the gospel gladness bear.
Redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly.
The night draws nigh.

Come, labor on.

Cast off all gloomy doubt and faithless fear!
No arm so weak but may do service here.
Though feeble agents, may we all fulfill
God's righteous will.

Come, labor on.

No time for rest, till glows the western sky,
till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie,
and a glad sound comes with the setting sun,
"Well done, well done!"

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.

Prayer for Labor Day.

Almighty God, when you lovingly formed us out of the dust of the earth, you breathed into us the breath of life and gave us work and purpose for living.

You placed Adam in the garden of Eden to till and keep it. Through our work, you make us co-creators with you, shaping the world in which we live. You gave dignity to our labor by sending your Son to labor with us. By our labor, the world is enriched. By our labor, we enjoy the fruits of creation.

For providing varieties of work and for blessing us by our labor, we give you thanks, O Lord.

- For those who plow the field; for farmers and farm workers, for those who work with their hands and those who move the earth, for all who provide food for others;
- For those who tend the sick and those who seek new cures; for doctors and nurses, for scientists and technicians; for all who work to care for the sick;
- For those who design and create; for inventors and explorers, for artists and musicians; for those who write books and those who entertain; for all who open windows on their world through art and music;
- For those who work in offices and those who work in warehouses; for secretaries and receptionists, for stockers and bookkeepers; for those who market products and for those who move them; for all who serve others through administration;
- For those who inspire our minds and those who motivate us; for teachers and preachers, for public servants and religious servants; those who help the poor and those who work with our children; for all who encourage us to learn;
- For those whose labor is tidiness and cleanliness; for janitors and sanitary workers, for drycleaners and maids; for those who produce cleaning products and those who use them; for all those who add beauty and cleanliness to your world;
- For those who sail the waves and those who fly the skies; for captains and attendants, for astronauts and deep sea divers; for those who chart and those who navigate;
- For those who serve in the armed forces; for soldiers and airmen; sailors and marines; for all those who put themselves in harm's way to protect others;

You bless us all with skills and gifts for labor. You provide us opportunities to use them, for the benefit of others as well as ourselves and the growth of your Kingdom on earth. Guard and protect those who labor in the world. Bless the work of our hands, O Lord.

Send your special favor on the unemployed, the under-employed and the disabled, that they may find work that enriches their lives and provides for their families. Give health to the sick, hope to the bereaved. Keep us from laboring for ourselves alone. Make us loving and responsible in all that we do. All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.