



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 Joy.***

**Psalm 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.

**Psalm 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.

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

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

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

**John 15:11** These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy  
may be full.

**John 16:24** Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that  
your joy may be full.

**Romans 14:17** For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of  
righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 15:13** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the  
power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

**Galatians 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,  
faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

**Philippians 4:4** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

**James 1:2-4** Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know  
that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect,  
that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

**I Peter 1:8-9** Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him,  
you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining  
the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

## **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.

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## **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 Fullness of Joy in God, by Anselm of Canterbury, Proslogion, 26 (c. 1033-1109)*

I pray, O God, that I may know you and love you,  
so that I may rejoice in you.

And if I cannot do so fully in this life  
may I progress gradually until it comes to fullness.

Let the knowledge of you grow in me here [on earth],  
and there [in heaven] be made complete;

Let your love grow in me here  
and there be made complete,

so that here my joy may be great in hope,  
and there be complete in reality.

Lord, by your Son, you command, or rather, counsel us to ask  
and you promise that we shall receive  
so that our “joy may be complete” [John 16:24].

I ask, Lord, as you counsel through our admirable Counselor.  
May I receive what you promise through your truth so that my “joy may be complete.”

Until then let my mind meditate on it,  
let my tongue speak of it,  
let my heart love it,  
let my mouth preach it.

Let my soul hunger for it,  
let my flesh thirst for it,  
my whole being desire it,  
until I enter into the “joy of the Lord” [Matt. 25:21],  
who is God, Three in One, “blessed forever. Amen” [Rom. 1:25].