



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 freedom in Scripture, as we celebrate July 4<sup>th</sup>.*

**Psalm 118:4-6** Let those who fear the Lord say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

<sup>5</sup> Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free.

<sup>6</sup> The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

**John 8:31-32** So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

**Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Romans 8:1-2** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

**II Corinthians 3:17-18** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

**Galatians 5:13-14** For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

**I Peter 2:16** Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

**Revelation 1:4-6** Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup> and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**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.]

***Amazing Grace***

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love, Amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

My chains are gone I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love, Amazing grace

The Earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God, Who called me here below  
Will be forever mine  
Will be forever mine  
You are forever mine

(Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone" words and music by John Newton, John P. Rees, Edwin Othello Excell, Arrangement and additional chorus by Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio Public Domain, Arr. © 2006 [worshipitogether.com](http://worshipitogether.com) Songs/sixsteps Music/ASCAP 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.*

**“Freedom”** A prayer from The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers.

O Holy Father, you have freely given your Son,  
O Divine Son, you have freely paid my debt,  
O Eternal Spirit, you have freely bid me come,  
O Triune God, you do freely grace me with salvation.

Prayers and tears could not suffice to pardon my sins,  
nor anything less than atoning blood,  
but my believing is my receiving,  
for a thankful acceptance is no paying of the debt.

What did you see in me?

that I a poor, diseased, despised sinner  
should be clothed in your bright glory?  
that a creeping worm  
should be advanced to this high state?  
that one lately groaning, weeping, dying,  
should be as full of joy as my heart can hold?  
that a being of dust and darkness  
should be taken like Mordecai from captivity,  
and set next to the king?  
should be lifted like Daniel from a den  
and be made ruler of princes and provinces?

Who can fathom immeasurable love?

As far as the rational soul exceeds the senses,  
so does the spirit exceed the rational in its  
knowledge of you.

You have given me understanding to compass the earth,  
measure the sun, moon, stars, universe,  
but above all to know you, the only true God.  
I marvel that the finite can know the Infinite,  
here a little, afterwards in full-orbed truth;  
Now I know but a small portion of what I shall know,  
here in part, there in perfection,  
here a glimpse, there a glory.  
To enjoy you is life eternal,  
and to enjoy is to know.  
Keep me in the freedom of experiencing  
your salvation continually.