



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 NT.*

**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.

**Acts 2:28** You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.

**Romans 12:12** Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

**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.

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

**Hebrews 12:2** [Look] to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

**James 1:2-4** Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

**1 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, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**3 John 1:4** I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

[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.]

### ***Joy to The World! The Lord Is Come!***

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:  
let men their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

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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.*

Holy Father, in our pursuit of happiness and joy we can do no better in this life than to turn to you. Your Word says "in your presence there is fullness of joy" (Psalm 16:11).

Jesus, you desire for us to know the fullness of your joy. But this fullness is elusive. It is quenched by our sin. It is dulled by our conflicting loyalties, by our pursuit of temporal and trivial pleasures that leave our souls empty.

We lift our dry, dull, thirsty souls up to you. You alone can restore and revive and refresh and fill us. Fill us with the fullness of yourself. Where else can we turn? You alone are the source of life and life eternal.

Remind us of the holy wrath we deserve for our unholy sin. Remind us of the lengths to which you have gone to save our sinful souls so we can rejoice again in how precious is your mercy and how long and high and wide and deep is your love. May this remembrance spill over into greater joy, joy that overpowers any temptation to earthly joys.

Holy Father, open our eyes to the joy of obedience to you and your Word and give us a willing spirit to want to obey you and to experience the joy of obedience. We need your free and willing Spirit.

And, Father, all that we ask for ourselves we ask for a double portion for our loved ones, our friends, our church family and especially for those who desperately need your life-giving and life-reviving joy.

What a source of joy it is to know the God who is the most supremely joyful and happy being in the universe.

What a source of joy to anticipate eternity knowing that the serious business of heaven is joy, exceedingly great and inexpressible joy. All this we ask in the joyful name of Jesus, Amen.