



## First Christian Reformed Church of Lynden From Generation to Generation for the Glory of God

*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

*From yesterday's sermon on how much the early church prayed in the book of Acts and how the church today still needs to pray just as much for God's grace and blessings.*

**Acts 1:14** All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

**Acts 1:24** And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen."

**Acts 2:42** They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

**Acts 3:1** Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.

**Acts 4:31** And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

**Acts 6:4-6** We will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

**Acts 7:59** As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

**Acts 8:14-15** Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, 15 who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 9:11** The Lord said to Ananias, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying.

**Acts 9:40** But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up.

**Acts 10:9** The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray.

**Acts 12:5** So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

**Acts 12:12** When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.

**Acts 13:2-3** While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

**Acts 14:23** And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

**Acts 16:13** On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.

**Acts 16:25-26** About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken.

**Acts 21:5-6** When our days there were ended, we departed and went on our journey, and they all, with wives and children, accompanied us until we were outside the city. And kneeling down on the beach, we prayed and said farewell to one another.

**Acts 22:17** When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance.

**Acts 27:29** Fearing that we might run on the rocks, they let down four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come.

**Acts 28:8** It happened that the father of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery. And Paul visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him, healed him.

## **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.]

### ***Another Year is Dawning***

Another year is dawning!  
Dear Father, let it be,  
in working or in waiting,  
another year with thee;  
another year of leaning  
upon thy loving breast,  
another year of trusting,  
of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of mercies,  
of faithfulness and grace;  
another year of gladness  
in the shining of thy face;  
another year of progress,  
another year of praise,  
another year of proving  
thy presence all the days.

Another year of service,  
of witness for thy love;  
another year of training  
for holier work above.

Another year is dawning!  
Dear Father, let it be  
on earth, or else in heaven,  
another year for thee.

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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.

My Good and Gracious Father,

You have brought me safely through another year. This was a year in which I saw and experienced so much of your goodness. You were good when you gave, and you were good when you took away; you were good when the sun shined upon me and you were good when the night fell around me. You were only, ever good.

In your Word you give the sure promise that you have loved me since before the foundation of the world. That love was always with me and held me fast through another year. You led me in each step I took. You led me around the wilderness to the places of cool rest and quiet. You led me through dark valleys to the joy beyond. You were there even in times when I wandered and went astray. There was nowhere I could go that was beyond your love, beyond your reach, beyond your care and compassion. You are so good and I am so grateful.

Father, I trust and I believe that your love and your kindness will be my theme in the year ahead. I entrust the future to you and I do it with joy and with confidence. I do it with sure hope that you already know each step I will take and that you will be with me to direct each one of them.

If you have appointed trials and tribulation, I know that you will guide and comfort me through them all. If I have to pass through persecution or times of deep temptation, I can have full confidence that you will never leave me nor forsake me. If this is to be the year you call me home, I can receive that with joy, knowing that I will rejoice to be in your presence at last. If this is the year that Christ returns—Please, may it be the year that Christ returns!—, then I will join with all Creation in rejoicing and praising your name.

But if you grant me length of days, and if you grant me health and safety through the year ahead, it is my prayer and my deep desire that I would live them all in your service and to your glory. Please grant me a grace that guides, sustains and sanctifies me every day and every hour, that in this new year I would not live a moment apart from you. Let me rely on your Spirit to supply every word I need to speak, to direct my every step, to prosper all I do, to build up my faith, and to grant me the heartfelt desire to display your glory, to advance your kingdom, and to declare your gospel.

Whatever may come in the year ahead, I pray that you would glorify yourself through me. In times of joy or sadness, in times of security or trial, in times of peace or temptation, make yourself known and make yourself great through me.

I pray this in the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.

(Prayer by Tim Challis based in part on the two new year's prayers in The Valley of Vision)