

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Introduction to the 2025 Stewardship Appeal

Great is Thy Faithfulness ELW 733

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions,
they fail not;
as Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime
and harvest;
sun, moon, and stars in their courses
above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and
love. [Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that
endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and
to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for
tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand
beside! [Refrain]

The Back Story

The Hymn "Great is Thy Faithfulness" was written in 1923 by Thomas Obadiah Chisholm as a testament to God's faithfulness through ordinary life.

The Phrase "Great is Thy Faithfulness" comes from the Bible, specifically Lamentations 3:23. It is a declaration of God's unchanging reliability and constant presence in our lives.

The Term "faithfulness" refers to God's steadfastness, unwavering commitment to promises, and consistent character.

We invite you to pray for this year's stewardship appeal, that each of us might prayerfully discern how we are being called by God to give.

How has God shown faithfulness to you recently and throughout your life?

Our theme this year is "Great Is Thy Faithfulness!" Over each of the next three weeks, a handout will highlight one specific aspect of our 2025 Stewardship goals offered in response to God's faithfulness:

Deepening Our Wells of Faith, Building Bridges into Our Community, and Investing in Our Future. We encourage you to reflect on God's gifts as we focus on Esperanza's hopes and accomplishments. Thanks to your generosity in 2024 Esperanza has:

- Expanded our presence in the community
- Supported and encouraged accessibility to and study of the Bible
- Paid down the mortgage principal
- Called a new pastor
- Continued to allow community groups to have access to our facilities
- Increased compensation for all staff members
- Created new fellowship opportunities
- Strengthened our joint venture with Children of Hope Child Development Center

Bible Verse of the Week:

Lamentations 3:22-23

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness."

What Does It Mean to be Faithful?

To be faithful means to be loyal, steadfast, and reliable. It involves consistently showing commitment and trustworthiness in relationships, whether with people, beliefs, or principles. In a religious context, faithfulness often refers to unwavering trust and devotion to God, as highlighted in Lamentations 3:23, which speaks to God's great faithfulness and His mercies being new every morning.

RSV Bible Trivia

Did you know? The word "faith" is found 246 times in the RSV version of the Bible!