

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

John Newton. Refrain by: Chris Tomlin, Louie Giglio

Verse 1

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.

Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Refrain

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Verse 3

Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come;
'Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far and Grace will lead me home.

Verse 4

When we've been here ten thousand years bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we've first begun.

We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

Credits

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Cover art. Frontispiece of a 1537 edition of *Treatise on the Spheres*, the standard medieval introduction to astronomy first published at the University of Paris in the 1200's by John of Holywood. This would have been the text Galileo used to learn astronomy.

Old Orchard Church

September 30, 2012 — 10:15 to 11:50 a.m.



**In these last days God has spoken to us by his Son,
Whom he appointed heir of all things,
and through whom he made the universe.**

(Hebrews 1:2)

Celebrating the Glory of Jesus Christ in the Creation of the World

At the name of Jesus,
Every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess Him,
King of glory now.
'Tis the Father's pleasure,
We should call Him Lord.
Who from the beginning,
Was the mighty Word.

At His voice creation,
Sprang at once to sight.
All the angel faces,
All the hosts of light.
Thrones and dominations,
Stars upon their way.
All the heavenly orders,
In their great array.
—Caroline Noel (1870)



Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson: Proverbs 8:22-31

Pearlstring on Christ and Creation:

John 1:1-5; I Corinthians 8:5-6; Colossians 1:13-17; Hebrews 1:1-4

The Ministry of the Word

Teaching of the People of God:

A Time for Open Praise

Christ and Creation

The list of passages which teach it is impressive: **The Son...by whom all things were created...**(Colossians 1:16). **There is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came...**(I Corinthians 8:6). **God has spoken to us by his Son...through whom he made the universe** (Hebrews 1:2). **In the beginning was the Word...through him all things were made...**(John 1:1 & 3).

Christ the Son, my Savior, was God's agent in creating the universe. The same one who, for my sake, became a human being; the one who ate and slept and cried tears. Not a mere force but a person—with a heart and a mind—brought matter out of nothing. Power. Mysterious power. Mesmerizing power. How did he do it—how?

And what does it mean that the Son was the Father's "agent," as we would say today; that the cosmos was made **by** the Father but **through** the Son? What awesome, inscrutable distinctions you teach me, O my God. I cannot plumb the depths of them.

But there is more to wonder at, to drive me to my knees: **All things were created by him and for him.** (Colossians 1:16) You were not only the Divine Agent in the creation of molecules and galaxies, O Jesus; you are the supreme Goal of all of it. Everything was made not just through you but for you. All that exists, exists for you. For you. Not for the biosphere, but for you; not for the United States, not for the human race, or world peace, but for you; not for me, but for you. You have become **the heir of all things.**

Humble me, O my God. I renounce the figurine I have made of you in my smallness, and bow before you as the ineffable, unimaginable, unapproachable God.

But love has conquered fear: O happy adoption by which the Father has made me one with you as my Elder Brother; O sweet kindness, by which all that is yours you have now made mine; O bittersweet cross by which my guilt has been nullified and my heart softened; O sweet and empty tomb by which I inherit the world!

Blessed be your name, O Lord Jesus, for even now you hold together the material world you once spoke into existence. You are present to every atom; you are life for every living thing.

Come Lord Christ, you who are making all things new. Restore what we have plundered. Unite heaven and earth again, and take your rightful place over all that is. Blessed be your high Name forever. Amen.

—Ron Luitjens

