

Amazing Grace My Chains Are Gone

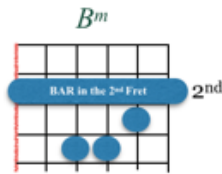
Lyrics by John Newton and William Cowper between 1760 & 1770, set to a traditional tune, "New Britain" by William Walker, 1835, Refrain by Christopher Dwayne "Chris" Tomlin and Louie Giglio

D D7 G D
Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound;

D Bm A A7
That saved a wretch like me.

D D7 G D
I once was lost, but now am found;

Bm A G D
Was blind, but now I see.



D D7 G D
The Lord has promised good to me,

D Bm A A7
His word my hope secures;

D D7 G D
He will my shield and portion be,

Bm A G D
As long as life endures.

REFRAIN x 2

D D7 G D
'Twas grace, that taught my heart to fear,

D Bm A A7
And grace my fears relieved.

D D7 G D
How precious did that grace appear,

Bm A G D
The hour I first believed.

D D7 G D
The earth shall soon dissolve like snow;

D Bm A A7
The sun forbear to shine;

D D7 G D
The God who called me here below,

Bm A G D
Will be forever mine.

REFRAIN

D G
My chains are gone;

D
I've been set free.

D G A
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.

D G Bm
And like a flood His mercy reigns;

Em A7 D
Unending love, amazing grace.

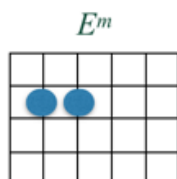


REFRAIN

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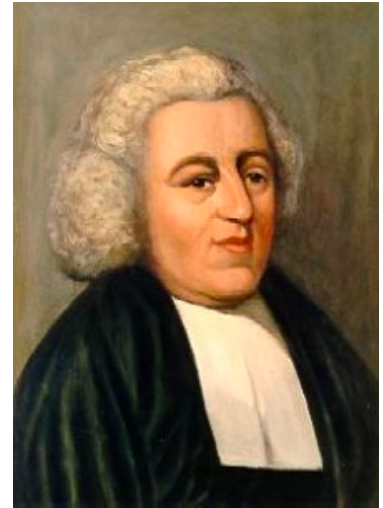


Scripture and History

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

"**Amazing Grace**" is a Christian hymn with words written by the English poet and clergyman John Newton (1725–1807), published in 1779. With the message that forgiveness and redemption are possible regardless of sins committed and that the soul can be delivered from despair through the mercy of God, "Amazing Grace" is one of the most recognizable songs in the English-speaking world.

Newton wrote the words from personal experience. He grew up without any particular religious conviction, but his life's path was formed by a variety of twists and coincidences that were often put into motion by his recalcitrant insubordination. He was pressed (forced into service involuntarily) into the Royal Navy, and after leaving the service, he became involved in the Atlantic slave trade. In 1748, a violent storm battered his vessel so severely that he called out to God for mercy, a moment that marked his spiritual conversation. However, he continued his slave trading career until 1754 or 1755, when he ended his seafaring altogether and began studying Christian theology.



Ordained in the Church of England in 1764, Newton became curate of Olney Buckingham, where he began to write hymns with poet William Cowper. "Amazing Grace" was written to illustrate a sermon on New Year's Day of 1773. It debuted in print in 1779 in Newton and Cowper's *Olney Hymns* but settled into relative obscurity in England. In the United States however, "Amazing Grace" was used extensively during the Second Great Awakening in the early 19th century. It has been associated with more than 20 melodies. In 1835 William Walker joined to a tune named "New Britain" to which it is most frequently sung today.

Author Gilbert Chase writes that "Amazing Grace" is "without a doubt the most famous of all the folk hymns," and Jonathan Aitken, a Newton biographer, estimates that it is performed about 10 million times annually. It has had particular influence in folk music, and has become an emblematic African American spiritual. Its universal message has been a significant factor in its crossover into secular music.

"Amazing Grace" saw a resurgence in popularity in the U.S. during the 1960s and has been recorded thousands of times during and since the 20th century, occasionally appearing on popular music charts.

Wikipedia

"**Amazing Grace - My Chains Are Gone**" preserves the words and imagery of John Newton's hymn (written between 1760 and 1770). The refrain is not in Newton's original poetry. Perhaps with an eye toward Newton's former occupation as a slave trader or perhaps speaking of the circumstances and activities of modern living that enslave us to sin, Tomlin and Giglio's refrain bursts forth with the triumphant declaration that God, through mercy, love, grace and the salvation of Christ, has removed our chains and set us free.

Discipleship Ministries, the United Methodist Church