

News on the Updated LDS Version of “Amazing Grace”

By Jonathan D. Whitcomb (Murray, Utah, USA)

As of the morning of July 24, 2025, the following is the most recent news on the revised text for “Amazing Grace”, which I wrote for members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:

Members I’ve talked with locally, recently, have reacted positively in support of new lyrics for the old hymn. My meeting with President Dredge (Murray Utah North Stake) went very well, and he will contact the Area Seventy who is responsible for the stakes in this part of the Salt Lake County. Please be aware that neither President Dredge nor the Area Seventy should be expected to predict the outcome of my effort to introduce this new hymn variation to the general leadership of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

I told President Dredge that I will accept the final decision of the general leaders of the Church, and as I recall, I admitted that there may be a reason for those leaders to support the traditional words of “Amazing Grace” in the upcoming new hymn book. Whatever happens, I am very grateful for President Dredge’s support in my bringing up details, to the general leaders, regarding the new words that would modify a very beloved hymn of the Christian world.

IMPORTANT UPDATE (July 25, 2025)

I no longer suggest that the new *version of “Amazing Grace” must replace the old version that is now #1010 for the [new hymn book](#). I now ask that *”2025-July-22” be considered for an **additional** hymn in *Hymns–For Home and Church*, with different uses for the two.

Having two hymns with the same title, in an LDS hymn book, is not in itself revolutionary. In the 1985 hymn book we have #176 and #177 (“‘Tis Sweet to Sing the Matchless Love”) and #173 and #174 (“While of These Emblems We Partake”). The differences with those two pairs are mostly with the music. With “Amazing Grace”, however, the traditional tune can be identical in the two versions (at present the harmonization differs).

Here is the point: How the two versions are used—that will differ. The new version will be mostly for home use with children and for sacrament-meeting congregational singing. The #1010 (already approved for the new hymn book) I suggest for choir performances and especially for many interdenominational gatherings. Other usages may be found, but generally #1010 should not be chosen for children to sing and probably not for most singing by youth.

In harmony with the Savior’s teachings about little children, the version to be used should be “2025-July-22”, or something with a similar kind of wording, when children might be expected to sing. If the general Church leaders choose to have two versions of “Amazing Grace” in *Hymns—For home and Church*, then #1010 (with the traditional words of the first verse) will very likely be the version that will NOT be used in sacrament meetings.

Amazing Grace

text by John Newton and Jonathan David Whitcomb

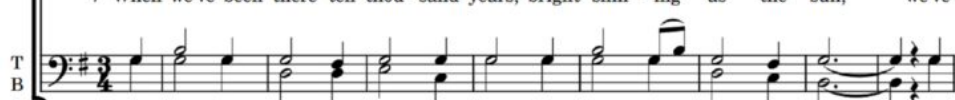
harmonized by J. D. Whitcomb

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1 A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound: the Ho - ly Spir - it's voice! I
2 The Sa - vior gives us life a - new and heals both wretch and saint and
3 A - maz - ing grace! The Sa - vior's hand could save some - one like me! I
4 To save us from a wretch - ed fate, He gave us grace to find Ce -
5 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I have al - read - y come. His
6 The Sav - ior said, "Come fol - low me, thy man - sion I pre - pare. Al -
7 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright shin - ing as the sun, we've

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1 once was lost but now am found by Christ who is my choice.
2 e - ven those who died re - news: a - wake to nev - er faint.
3 once would sink but now I stand, was blind but now I see.
4 -les - tial thought, a heaven - ly state, ce - les - tial peace of mind.
5 grace has brought me safe thus far; His grace will lead me home.
6 -though for now you do not see, I will re - ceive you there."
7 no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.



version 2025-July-22

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I have in mind three possible avenues to contact the leaders in the music department of the Church. As of early July 25th, I have not spoken with any of them. If anyone has any direct contact with someone in the music department or a general authority, I will also be open to that. Thank you.

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[Recommended LDS hymns](#)

This includes “Gethsemane”, a favorite children’s song about the Savior’s experience in that garden, regarding His atoning sacrifice on that night.

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[Hymns and some potential hymns for the LDS Church](#)

These include “Amazing Grace” and “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” and “Now in the Garden” (here referred to with the words “Christ in Gethsemane”)

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[A list of new LDS hymns](#)

This is an alphabetical listing, as of July 12, 2025, for the upcoming *Hymns—For Home and Church*

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[A new LDS version of “Amazing Grace”](#)

As of at least June 1, 2025, this version of “Amazing Grace” has not been promoted or accepted for publication by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, at least not yet.

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[Details about the traditional “Amazing Grace”](#)

It is possibly the most sung and most recorded hymn in the world

LDS New Hymns Listing

The following is an alphabetical [list of new LDS hymns](#), as of July 12, 2025, for the upcoming print edition of Hymns—For Home and Church:

“Amazing Grace” #1010

“Anytime, Anywhere” #1012

“As Bread Is Broken” #1007

“As I Keep the Sabbath Day” #1035

“Because” #1039

“Behold the Wounds in Jesus’ Hands” #1016

“Bread of Life, Living Water” #1008

“Come, Hear the Word the Lord Has Spoken” #1031

“Come, Lord Jesus” #1018

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” #1001

“Faith in Every Footstep” #1022

“Gethsemane” #1009

“God’s Gracious Love” #1013

“Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise” #1201

“He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child” #1202

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow” #1005

“His Voice as the Sound” #1040

"Holding Hands around the World" #1011

"Holy Places" #1026

"I Can't Count Them All" #1029

"I Have Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ" #1024

"I Know That My Savior Loves Me" #1021

"I'm a Pioneer Too" #1034

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" #1037

"It Is Well with My Soul" #1003

"I Will Walk with Jesus" #1004

"Let Easter Anthems Ring" #1205

"Look unto Christ" #1032

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" #1014

"Oh, How Great Is Our Joy" #1033

"Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" #1015

"O Lord, Who Gave Thy Life for Me" #1041

"Read the Book of Mormon and Pray" #1036

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling " #1020

"Standing on the Promises" #1023

"Star Bright" #1204

"Still, Still, Still" #1207

"Take My Heart and Let It Be Consecrated" #1025

"The Lord's My Shepherd" #1038

“Think a Sacred Song” #1006

“This is the Christ” #1017

“This Little Light of Mine” #1028

“To Love like Thee” #1019

“Welcome Home” #1027

“Were You There?” #1206

“What Child Is This?” #1203

“When the Savior Comes Again” #1002

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List of new LDS hymns

*The following is an index of those [new LDS hymns] that have been accepted for publication in the upcoming **Hymns—For Home and Church**, as of July 12, 2025 ...*

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New hymns for Latter-day Saints

This short list includes “When the Savior Comes Again” (especially for children) and “I Will Walk With Jesus”.

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New lyrics for the LDS hymn “Hope of Israel”

This well-established LDS hymn has been re-engineered for the 21st century by Jonathan Whitcomb ... The words are now freed from any possible misunderstanding about war and battle.

New LDS Hymns—Highly Recommended

The following are highly recommended new hymns that will be in the print version of *Hymns—For Home and Church* in many languages:

[When the Savior Comes Again](#)

Hymn #1002 with words and music by Lane Johnson

[I Will Walk With Jesus](#)

Hymn #1004 with words and music by Stephen P. Schank

[Gethsemane](#)

This children's song was popular in the old primary song book. It will be a welcome addition to *Hymns—For Home and Church*: #1009.

*Jesus climbed the hill to the Garden still;
His steps were heavy and slow.
Love and a prayer took Him there
To the place only He could go.*

God's Gracious Love

*Day by day, God's gracious love surrounds me
As a balm to soothe my troubled heart.
Countless cares and worries that confound me
Fade away or quietly depart ...*

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Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

Text: Samuel Trevor Francis, 1898; alt.

Music: Stephen M. Jones, 2023

*Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus—
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free—
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me!*

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New LDS Hymns not yet Published

Here are the first two verses of “Believe and Come to Him”:

verse 1

*Believe in God and come to him
And feast upon his word.
Receive the one the Father sent
By making sacred covenant:
Partake the sacrament.
Believe and come to him.*

verse 2

Behold his hands, his feet and side:

*We know the Savior lives.
Be eating, we in him abide,
And by the Holy Spirit Guide,
Behold the Savior lives.
We know the Savior lives.*

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[Amazing Grace revised by Whitcomb](#)

The second problem [with the traditional first verse of "Amazing Grace"] is this: What about the person who has strayed far from the teachings of Christ? When he feels like a wretch and decides to come back to church and mend his ways, what is the last thing he would need to hear as he walks into the chapel? It would be "a wretch like me."

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[LDS Anthem "Come to Christ"](#)

*Press forward: Feast on the word of Christ
Behold you shall find eternal life.
Hold to the rod: the word of God.
Behold the tree of the love of God.*

*We like sheep had gone astray
Turning from the chosen way.
Turn again. Turn to God.
While the Shepherd seeks a stray,
Father, help us keep to the way.*

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