

John Newton

Amazing Grace

Words by John Newton (1725–1807),

Born in Olney, England (near London)

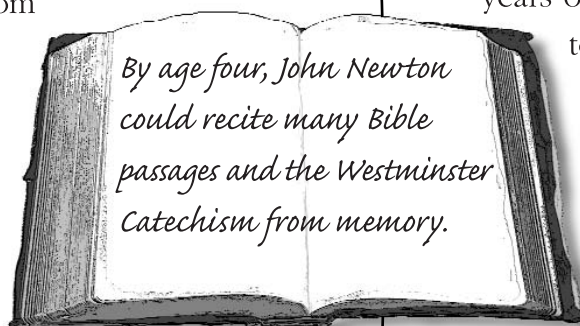
Music: Early American folk melody

For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.

Ephesians 2: 8–9

The Story of “Amazing Grace”

The storm was fierce. Winds were howling and waves rushed over the deck of the ship. The ship swayed and dipped as the sailors tried to keep it from turning over and sinking into the treacherous ocean. Twenty-three-year-old John Newton was a passenger on the ship, and he was terrified. He wondered if God had sent this storm because, like Jonah in the Old Testament, he had disobeyed God and done some bad things. As a child, John had been taught to love God and do His will, but he had turned his back on godly things as a young man.



By age four, John Newton could recite many Bible passages and the Westminster Catechism from memory.

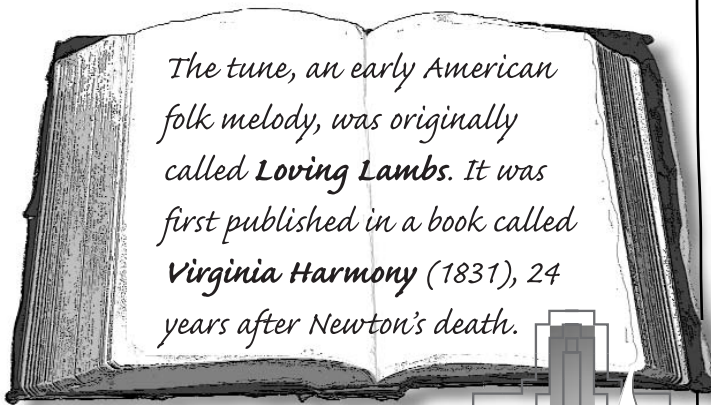
John's mother wanted him to be a minister. She taught him many Bible verses and hymns. But when John was only seven years old, his mother died and he was left to take care of himself. His father, a sea captain, was far away on a ship. When John was 11, he journeyed to join his father at sea but his father made him return. He then became very rebellious and wild.

Now here he was in this dangerous situation at sea, suddenly realizing that he needed God to protect him. He fell to his knees and prayed that God would save them. The storm died down and the ship and men were saved. This voyage was taking John back to England, and now, more than ever, he could not wait to get home.

He wanted to be with Mary, his childhood sweetheart, marry her and begin a new life. And that is exactly what he did.

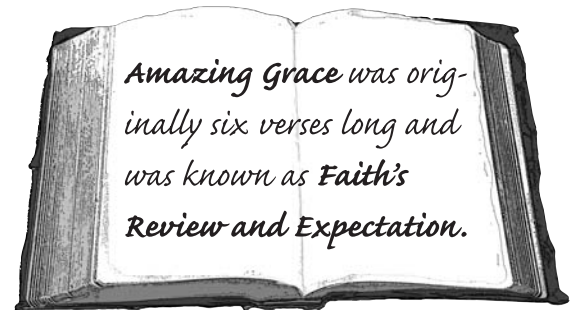
Shortly after the storm at sea, he wrote the words:

*Amazing Grace! how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch (sinner) like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.*



*As an elder minister,
John Newton was called
the "Old Converted Sea
Captain."*

John Newton did become a minister, as his mother had wished. He also wrote many hymns. The hymns that were sung in the churches of that time were all based on the Psalms. John thought that hymns would mean even more to the people if they were simple, heartfelt expressions of love and faith. In 1779, along with his friend William Cowper, he compiled a book of 349 new hymns called



the *Olney Hymnal*. Cowper wrote 67 of the hymns and John Newton wrote the rest. This book, which has greatly influenced other hymn writers, is considered to be one of the great masterpieces of hymn writing.

Other sacred songs by John Newton



*Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken
How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds
Safely Through Another Week*

Hymn tune names

*Austrian Hymn
St. Peter
Sabbath*

Amazing Grace

Words by John Newton
Music: Early American folk melody

$\text{♩} = 88$

mf A - maz - ing — grace, how sweet the

1 3 5 5 2 2

3 5 1 5

4

sound That saved a — wretch like me! —

3 3 1 2 1 5 1

2 4 1

8

I once — was — lost, but now am —

3 5 2 1 2

5 3 5 2 5

12

found, Was blind but — now I see. —

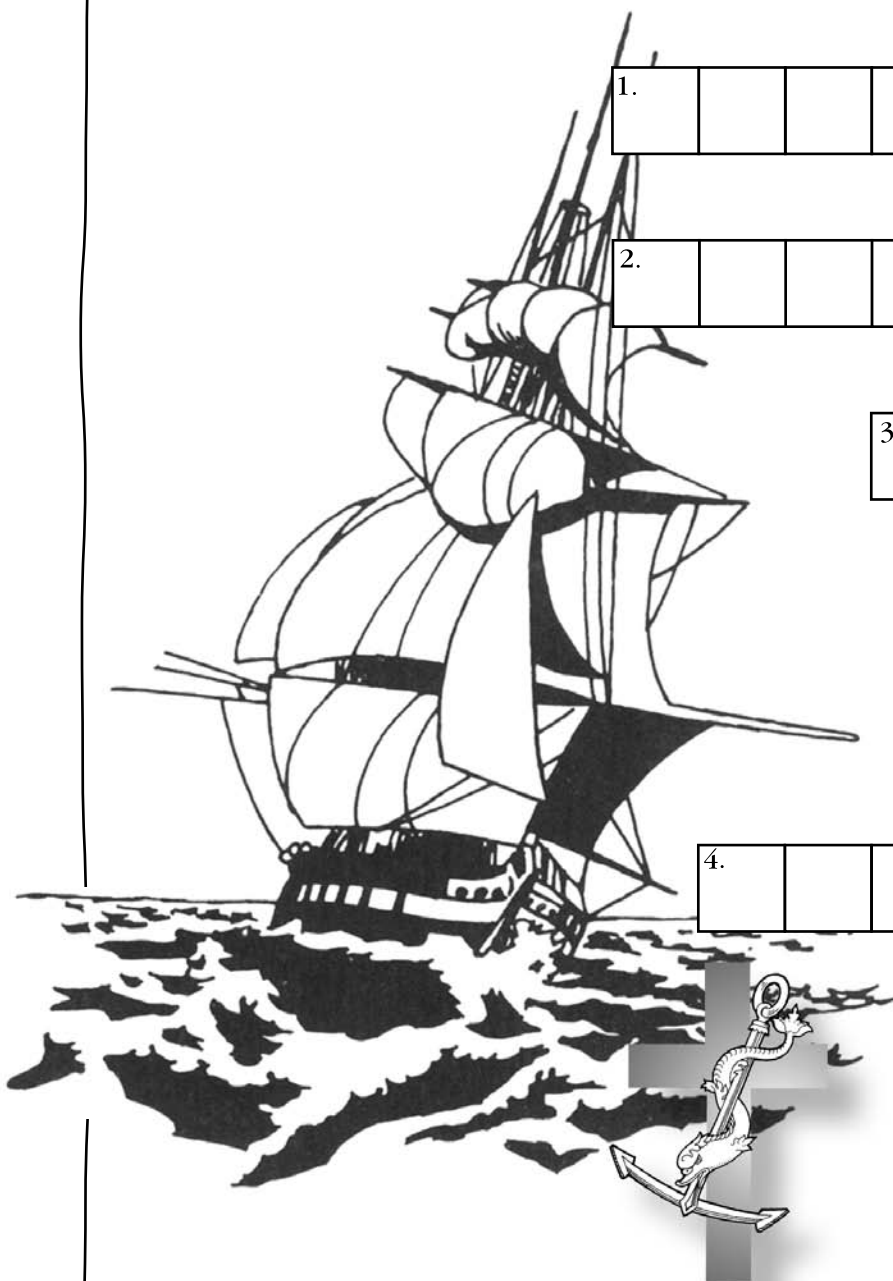
1 3 5 1 4 1

1 4 1 5

Hymn tune name: *Amazing Grace*

"Amazing Grace" Crossword

Complete the sentences. Write the answers in the blanks of the puzzle.



1.					A		
					M		
2.					A		
					Z		
3.					I		
					N		
					G		
					*		
					G		
4.					R		
					A		
					5. C		
					E		

1. John Newton was born in Olney, _____.
2. Newton's father was a sea _____.
3. Newton's mother wanted him to be a _____.
4. The music of "Amazing Grace" is an Early _____ folk melody.
5. John Newton and his friend, William _____, wrote the "Olney Hymnal."