



Welcome to Blackburn Baptist Church, on February 27th 2022 at 10:45, meeting once more at Bethesda Chapel.

Whilst some are able to meet in person, others we know are still at home. We hope and pray that you will find this outline of our service helpful, as we seek to worship God as a Church family, wherever we are.

Our service today is led by Alec, as we continue our series: Characteristics of God, and Tim plays the piano for us as we gather.

Alec welcomes everyone to Bethesda Chapel:

"Good morning everybody and a very very warm welcome to you on a nice sunny day here in Blackburn, on a day where it's still quite cold in the early morning and still now cold, but a very warm welcome here in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Father Son and Holy Spirit to this service of worship here in Blackburn Baptist Church in Gallagreaves, Blackburn; and a special warm welcome if you're watching this gathering on the recording afterwards, always good to hear from you if you're watching it at home and you have questions or thoughts or if you just want to say thank you that's fine. I really hope that you enjoy watching this recording and that the Lord speaks to you as well this morning. I'm going to begin by reading Psalm 100 which reads: "Shout for joy to the Lord all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name for the Lord is good and his love endures forever, his faithfulness continues through all generations." Amen

Two weeks ago when I started preparations for this meeting this morning I had planned to include a song, a lyric song from Hillsong, The Creed, which has been filmed in Kyiv, and I have chosen to keep that in the program so that while we are listening to or singing to this song, for which we should we should remain seated, we can pray for and reflect on, meditate on, the needs of the believers and the people in the city of Kiev, (Kyiv) which you will see, and the needs of the country of Ukraine as a whole, as well as the surrounding population, so I would ask that we see that, and quietly follow it and pray.'

Meditation for Ukraine: Hillsong video "The Creed" filmed in Kiev (Kyiv)

Our Father everlasting, the all-creating One, God Almighty,
through your Holy Spirit conceiving Christ the Son, Jesus our Saviour.

I believe in God our Father, I believe in Christ the Son

I believe in the Holy Spirit, Our God is three in One.

I believe in the resurrection, that we will rise again,
for I believe in the Name of Jesus.

Our Judge and our Defender, suffered and crucified, forgiveness is in You,
descended into darkness, You rose in glorious light, forever seated high.
I believe in God our Father.....

I believe in You, I believe You rose again
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord.
(I believe)
And I believe in You, I believe You rose again
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord.
I believe in God our Father.....
I believe in God our Father.....

For I believe in the Name of Jesus, for I believe in the Name of Jesus
(We believe in Lord Jesus)

I believe in life eternal, I believe in the virgin birth,
I believe in the saints' communion, and in Your Holy Church.
I believe in the resurrection, when Jesus comes again
for I believe in the Name of Jesus
(Come on)
I believe in God our Father....
I believe in God our Father.....

Praise you, Lord, worship you, Jesus

Songwriters: Ben Fielding / Matt Crocker CCLI SONG # 7018338
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uuDI-sk2nJU>

Alec confirms that we will include prayers for Ukraine later in our service, during our prayers of intercession, and invites the congregation to join with our first hymn this morning, played by Tim: Come thou fount of every blessing

Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's redeeming love.

Here I find my greatest treasure; hither by thy help I've come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, bought me with his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

AUTHORS: John Wyeth, Robert Robinson, CCLI SONG #108389
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Alec shares the Notices

- Refreshments after the service
- Coffee Morning - Tuesday 1 Mar, 10.00 - 12.00
- Ladies' Fellowship - Tuesday 1 Mar, 14.15
- Tiddlywinks Parents and Toddler Group - Wednesday 2 Mar, 09.30 - 11.30
- Fellowship Meeting - Thursday 3 Mar, 19.30 - 20.30 (Bible Study - 1 Peter)
- Movie Morning - Saturday 5 Mar, 10.30 - 12.00
- **Leprosy Coffee Morning on Saturday 10.30am**
- Sunday Worship - Sunday 6 Mar, 10.45 - next in our series on the character of God
- Saturday 16 April, 18.30 - **The Gospel in the Passover** with Igal Vender
- Colin asked that we are reminded that there is an opportunity to join in cleaning the chapel on Thursday morning (the first Thursday of the month) 10am
- There will be open air ministry in the town centre again tomorrow from 11.30am, Stuart welcomes prayer as well as any other support.

Alec " As I mentioned at the beginning, we are very pleased for those who are able to join us on the recording, this week or in the future. We now have a bank of recordings going back to March 2020. I remember and give thanks to those like Nigel, Johnny, Tim and Paul who would come into the chapel during the week to record the messages and then record the whole service, and there are some people who watch these services week in week out, in all parts of the world , in North America, in the Philippines, in Switzerland, even in the southern part of Germany, so its really good that these services are so popular and so well received that one of these people has come here today to share with us in this service. A very warm welcome to one of our viewers."

Greetings from Sibylle Johnston:

"Good morning

For those who don` t know me: my name is Sibylle Johnston. I am the pastor`s wife.

I live in south-west Germany in an area called the Black Forest where I work as a nurse. Because of Brexit and the coronavirus pandemic Alec and I have to live apart from one another. I am so happy to see you all again and bring you greetings from

friends in Germany who pray with me for this church. Last week I attended a ladies' meeting at Grace Baptist Church in Germany where the following letter which was sent from a missionary doctor was read. I would like to share this letter with you today.

This is a true story!

During the birth of her second child the mother died. She left a two-year old daughter and a very weak premature baby. To be certain of the survival of the baby it needed to be kept warm. Especially at night as the nights in the Congo were very cold. The missionary doctor told her assistant to make a fire, heat some water and fill the only available hot water bottle. Very soon the assistant came back saying that because of the ongoing weather conditions the hot water bottle had been damaged and was unusable.

While the doctor went to the mission station to teach she told the assistant to somehow keep the baby warm. In the school the doctor told the children what had happened and asked them to pray with her for the survival of the baby and the crying sister of the baby who had also lost her mother.

The children prayed. The oldest child, who was 10 years old prayed: "Dear God, you must send a new hot water bottle this afternoon, otherwise the baby will die tonight. And whatever you do, don't forget to send a doll as well because her sister is so sad."

In her heart the missionary thought this prayer would be very difficult to answer. Nobody would dream of sending a hot water bottle to a tropical land like Congo. And parcels rarely arrived. The missionary hoped that the praying child would not be disappointed.

The doctor was once again very busy when a car arrived at the mission station. A very heavy parcel had arrived. The missionary asked the children to come and help with the opening of the parcel. The children were delighted.

Many different good things came out of the parcel. Each child took something out of the parcel. One of them took out a brand new hot water bottle.

Putting her hand in the parcel the girl who had prayed said: "I am sure God has remembered to send the doll as well." Then she pulled out a beautiful doll.

The missionary was very embarrassed and amazed as she realised that God had arranged for this package to have been sent from Germany five months previously. She was equally amazed both that God had guided someone to include a hot water bottle and a doll and that the package had arrived of all things on that very afternoon.

"God knows what we need and when" "

Alec invites Victor to share our Bible Reading today: **Ephesians 2:1-10**

Made alive in Christ

'As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the Spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.'

"May the Lord bless the reading of his word"

Alec introduces our **Offering hymn: "This is amazing grace"** by Phil Wickham

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness?

Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?

The King of glory, the King above all kings.

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder?

And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?

The King of glory, the King above all kings.

This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love,

that You would take my place, that You would bear my cross.

You laid down Your life that I would be set free,

Oh, Jesus, I sing for all that You've done for me.

Who brings our chaos back into order?

Who makes the orphans a son and daughter?

The King of glory, the King of glory.

Who rules the nations with truth and justice?

Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?

The King of glory, the King above all kings.

This is amazing grace.....

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain

Worthy is the King who conquered the grave

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.....

Worthy, worthy, worthy -

This is amazing grace....

Songwriters: Farro Joshua Neil / Wickham Phil / Riddle Jeremy
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Alec gives thanks for the offering:

Loving Heavenly Father, thank you for all that you have done for us, for each one of us. Each one of us can say 'Thank you for what you have done for me'. And we give just a small gift back to you of all the good things you have given to us and ask that you will bless this in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, for the extension of your kingdom on this earth until you come again, Alec until we are with you in glory. We praise you and thank you, O Lord, Amen.

then invites Jane to lead our prayers of intercession.

'Our Heavenly Father and most Gracious God, we bring you our prayers today, not trusting in any righteousness of our own but in Your loving kindness, demonstrated in the gift of your Son, Jesus, who willingly suffered death in our place that we might have new life in relationship with You. Please forgive us for the times we have not given You the honour and praise that is due your name, the times we have thought, said, or done things we should not have, and for those times we have not done the things you have asked of us. In your mercy, accept the prayers we now bring.

Father, we look at the world around us with sadness at the hate and destruction we see. Today, we pray especially for the devastating situation in Ukraine, using the words of a prayer written by Pete Greig of the 24-7 Prayer organisation.

'A Prayer for Ukraine

Father God, King of all nations, we cry out to you now for the people of Ukraine. We ask you to rescue those who are vulnerable from the hands of their enemies that they may live without fear before you all their days [Luke 1:74-75].

Kyrie eleison - Lord have mercy.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Lord of lords and Prince of peace, our politicians are predicting the biggest war in Europe since 1945, and we simply cry out to you urgently to write another story in our time. Thwart the dark machinations of evil men. Give wisdom beyond human wisdom to peacemakers seeking an equitable and less violent way. May politicians exercise the wisdom from above, which is peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, and full of mercy [James 3:17].

Kyrie eleison - Lord have mercy.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Holy Spirit, we pray for the church in Ukraine, a nation in which 70% of the population call themselves Christian. Give our many brothers and sisters in that nation courage in this crisis that they may proclaim the good news of your kingdom, bind up broken hearts, and bring comfort to all who mourn. [Isaiah 61:1-2].

Kyrie eleison - Lord have mercy.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

You Lord, make wars cease to the end of the earth; you break bows, shatter spears, and burn shields with fire [Psalm 46:9]. And so we ask you now to save the lives of many people in Ukraine. Make a peace that is strong and not weak. De-escalate this crisis. We hear of wars and rumours of wars (Matt. 24:6), but you Lord are our rock, our fortress and our deliverer. Our hope is in you. And so we address the nations now. In the name of Jesus we say: "Be still and know God! He is exalted among the nations; he shall be exalted in the earth [Psalm 46:10].

Kyrie eleison - Lord have mercy.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace. Amen '

We pray now for those we know and love who are going through difficult times: for those who are unwell or suffering long-term ill-health and for those who care for them, and we also pray for all those who mourn - Lord, give them Your healing, comfort and peace.

We pray for those who are lost and do not know which way to turn, for any who feel oppressed by financial worries or the cares of everyday life - Lord, shine Your light in the dark places, reveal the way ahead for them and show them Your grace.

We pray for this area of Galligreaves and ask You to open the hearts of the people to seek You. Show us where You are already at work and equip us to be able to join in and serve You and our neighbours, in the name of Jesus. Father, we pray that you would send workers to go out into Your harvest fields in this area and throughout Blackburn. We thank you for the opportunities that are developing to support and work with the team at St. Luke's; we pray for Jason and Rachel and others, especially in their work with young people.

Finally, we thank you, Father, for bringing Sibylle to us this weekend; it is a joy to see her and we value the support she gives, not just to Alec, but to the whole church through her prayers and concern, although so far away in Germany. Please bless her time in the UK and give her travelling mercies on her return.

We thank You, Lord, that you do indeed listen to our prayers and we offer them to you now in and through the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

Amen'

Before Alec shares his short message, he invites us to watch, read, sing or listen to Message hymn "I will wait for you/Out of the depths"

This is a quieter reflective song from the Getty Collection, and begins and ends ("Intro and Outro") with the tune to which we generally sing the words "I'm not ashamed to own my Lord"

(INTRO

Lord, from the depths I call to You, Lord, hear me from on high
and give attention to my voice when I for mercy cry.)

Out of the depths I cry to You, in darkest places I will call;
incline Your ear to me anew and hear my cry for mercy, Lord.

Were You to count my sinful ways how could I come before Your throne?
Yet full forgiveness meets my gaze, I stand redeemed by grace alone.

**I will wait for You, I will wait for You,
on Your word, I will rely.
I will wait for You, surely wait for You,
till my soul is satisfied.**

So put your hope in God alone, take courage in His power to save
completely and forever won by Christ emerging from the grave.

I will wait for You....

Now He has come to make a way and God Himself has paid the price,
that all who trust in Him today find healing in His sacrifice.

**I will wait for You, I will wait for You
through the storm and through the night.
I will wait for You, surely wait for You,
for Your love is my delight.**

(OUTRO

I pray my soul waits for the Lord, my hope is in His word.
More than the watchman waits for dawn my soul waits for the Lord.)

Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matthew Merker, Stuart Townend CCLI SONG # 7118914
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Alec shares his message: "Our gracious God"

The message this morning is really basically about three people who were at the end of their tether, who didn't know how to go on or who were seeking truth and reality, purpose and sanity in an insane world; people to whom and with whom God graciously spoke, like I believe He wants to speak this morning to you and to me.

Last week we looked at the context of our God's self-revelation to Moses and at God's compassionate nature. The Hebrew word *raham*, רַחֵם pronounced *rakh-oom*, may be variously translated compassion, mercy, pity or womb. You may remember the short film clip using the womb as the embodiment of God's dealings with His people.

It is good to remind ourselves too as we consider today God's graciousness that the elements of God's character are not completely independent from another; there are as we would expect significant overlaps between these characteristics. In reminding ourselves of this we may be helped by the following verses.

In Deuteronomy 4:31 we read: "For the Lord your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your ancestors, which he confirmed to them by oath."

In 2 Chronicles 30:9: "If you return to the Lord, then your fellow Israelites and your children will be shown compassion by their captors and will return to this land, for the Lord your God is gracious and compassionate. He will not turn his face from you if you return to him."

Nehemiah 9:17: "They refused to listen and failed to remember the miracles you performed among them. They became stiff-necked and in their rebellion appointed a leader in order to return to their slavery. But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate; slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore you did not desert them."

In the book of the prophet Joel 2:13: "Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love and he relents from sending calamity."

Let's not forget the prophet Jonah. Jonah's fear and pride cause him to run from God. He was told around 760 BC by God to go to Nineveh, which was until the year 612 BC the largest city in the world for approximately fifty years. He does not wish to go to Nineveh to preach repentance to the people, as God has commanded, because he feels they are his enemies, and he is convinced that God will not carry out his threat to destroy the city. So he boards a ship for Tarshish, which is in the opposite direction.

In Jonah 3:10 we read: "When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, He had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened."

Jonah 4:2: "He prayed to the Lord, 'Isn't this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and

compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.”

Let me summarise this or put it together. Because God is gracious, we are the recipients, the receivers of His compassion and steadfast love.

There are 45 references to the word gracious scattered throughout the scriptures 40 in the Old Testament and 5 in the New Testament. Gracious is the adjective from grace and means kind, merciful and forgiving.

Grace is the free flowing of undeserved favour. Probably the most well-known acronym of God's grace is God's riches at Christ's expense.

While we were yet sinners Christ died for us.

When a person discovers grace, it's because they've discovered Jesus. And when a person discovers Jesus, it's because they've discovered grace.

Grace according to the Word of God is not a substance. It's not a commodity. We can't buy it or earn it. It's not something that is portioned out by the church: a little grace here and a little grace there. No, the only way that grace is known is in the Lord Jesus Christ. So it is no surprise that the great cry of the Reformation was not simply “by grace alone” but “in Christ alone.”

Now I may have used a word there that you might not be too familiar with, “Reformation”. As our resident historian will undoubtedly know, the Protestant Reformation was a religious reform movement that swept through Europe in the 1500s. It all started with a man called Martin Luther. Nowadays in Europe of course the European Union is a unique enterprise by sovereign states to peacefully sit down and negotiate the terms of political, economic and social interaction and cooperation. But there is no, absolutely no reference or mention of God at all in the EU constitution.

Martin Luther was a German Augustinian monk. Although he was a very religious man, Luther was deeply bothered and genuinely worried by the fact that his religion did not give him any peace. He could not settle in his own mind whether he could find himself accepted by God. “How can I,” he asked himself again and again, “have a sense of pardon? How can I ever know that God has forgiven my sin? How can I ever be in a right relationship with God?”

Maybe you ask yourselves these questions too? Maybe you are asking yourself these things this morning?

Martin Luther tried to answer these questions himself by extending and increasing the number of religious activities he was involved in. Quite possibly in his day he was the one most active person in this respect. He did and tried all kinds of things to have his wrongs forgiven, to sort out the mess he was in and to be accepted by God. He even went to Rome and went up the so-called holy steps, the Scala Sancta; a set of 28 white marble steps may only be climbed on one's knees. According to Roman Catholic tradition, the Holy Stairs

were the steps leading up to the praetorium of Pontius Pilate in Jerusalem on which Jesus Christ stepped on his way to trial during his Passion.

In doing that and being active in so many similar religious activities he imagined God would be looking at him and see that God recognised and understood his weakness, his wrongs and the chaos that he felt his life represented and that in some way or another God would accept these religious behaviours as balancing out his, Luther`s, own wrongs.

Maybe we know people who perhaps think and behave in the same way?

But you see in reality Luther realised that his religious behaviour was getting him nowhere. Looking at himself he realised he still had no peace, no forgiveness, and no real, true relationship with God. Basically at this point he understood that he had to give up his religion because everything that he had based his life on up to then had not given him the forgiveness and acceptance with God that he so needed.

Maybe you too are at this place this morning?

Martin Luther was trying so hard like so many of us to earn forgiveness from and acceptance with God. Then he realised that salvation is not a reward that is given out, nor is it an achievement to which we can point, but a gift of God`s grace.

Do you know what he said when he saw that? He said:“And when this dawned on me, when I realised this, when I grasped what this was and what it meant, I felt myself absolutely born again.”

We may present ourselves packed up in layers and layers of religious activity and think we`ve made it, we are Christian believers. We may have attended New Wine or gone to the Keswick convention every year, read through Premier emails and newsletters, visited Spring Harvest, listened to Hillsong every day, zoomed in on the Baptist Union assembly and that may be all really interesting and moving, and may indeed be meaningful and helpful. I am not disputing that for one minute. We should be truly very grateful for the freedom that we still have in this land to enjoy and benefit from a plethora of these kinds of things.

Yet the pre-condition for living in and with God, the essential preparation for a life with Jesus Christ is first and foremost to see that it is not what we are doing for God that transforms our lives, but what He is doing in us; and even before that, that it is listening to the voice of God speaking to our hearts saying we need to turn away from doing and thinking wrong, to ask forgiveness from the living God, to make a 180 degree turn out of the one way street to hell and move on in the life He has given us in obedience to Him according to the grace of God. Our God is so gracious to enable us to turn back to Him. He chose us in Jesus Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight, (Ephesians 1:4).

Whether we look at Philippians 3:4-6 or Acts 22 from verse 3 we share in an amazing story. An extremely gifted man, a well-trained man, a man completely committed to the cause of being religious and following the traditions of his fathers. Let`s dip in to this. READ Acts 22:3-5.

Surely such a man would have had peace within his own heart? Surely he would have found favour with God? After all that religious instruction, all those religious activities he had been involved in, all those many gatherings he had attended? Surely God would be pleased with that and be gracious to him? After all he had deliberately and completely fulfilled all of the measures necessary, all of the detailed requirements needed to live and to demonstrate the perfect religious life. On top of that he had taken appropriate disciplinary measures against the followers of the so-called "Way", the followers of Jesus Christ, persecuting them until they were imprisoned or even dead.

But you see he had missed the point. His eyes were blind. His heart had not been opened to the reality of God in Jesus Christ. But that was soon to change through the grace of God. READ Acts 22:6-10.

Has God been speaking to you this morning? Has he opened your eyes to show you the truth about your life and your need for forgiveness and new life through Jesus Christ?

Our final hymn this morning was written by a man called John Newton.

Only God's amazing grace could and would take a rude, profane, slave-trading sailor and transform him into a child of God. Newton never ceased to stand in awe of God's work in his life.

Newton was brought up by a Christian mother who taught him the Bible at an early age, but when he was 7 she died of tuberculosis. At 11, Newton went on his first of six sea-voyages with his father, a merchant navy captain.

Newton lost his first job, in a merchant's office, because of "unsettled behaviour and impatience of restraint"—a pattern that would persist for years. He spent his later teen years at sea before he was press-ganged aboard the H.M.S. Harwich in 1744. Newton rebelled against the discipline of the Royal Navy and deserted. He was caught, put in irons, and flogged. He eventually convinced his superiors to discharge him to a slave ship. He remained arrogant and insubordinate, and lived with moral abandon: "I sinned with a high hand," he later wrote, "and I made it my study to tempt and seduce others." He had rejected his mother's teachings and had led other sailors into unbelief.

He was on a Liverpool ship in 1747 on its homeward journey when the ship was overtaken by an enormous 11-day North Atlantic storm. Newton had been reading Thomas a Kempis's "The Imitation of Christ", and was struck by a line about the "uncertain continuance of life." He also recalled a passage in Proverbs which his mother had taught him, "Because I have called and you have refused, I also will laugh at your calamity."

But in God's grace the Lord spoke to Him clearly and through God's grace John Newton gave his life to the Lord, later seeing his mother's prayer for him to enter the ministry being answered as in 1764, at the age of thirty-nine, he began forty-three years of preaching the Gospel of Christ.

In 1769, Newton began a Thursday evening prayer service. For almost every week's service, he wrote a hymn to be sung to a familiar tune.

"My memory is nearly gone" he said, "but I remember two things: That I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Saviour."

Let us not forget what John Newton always remembered. We are indeed great sinners, but Christ is a great Saviour. His graciousness, the grace of God, is from everlasting to everlasting. For the Lord our God does not change. Amen "

It seems appropriate, after listening to this, to join in our closing hymn: Amazing grace, which we will follow with the Doxology, both played by Tim.

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

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

Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

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

Words John Newton
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DOXOLOGY "Praise God from whom all blessings flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

AUTHORS: Louis Bourgeois, Thomas Ken
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