

Media and Graphics Notes

Word of Witness Video?	No
Sermon Starter Video?	Yes
Sermon Notes?	Yes
Other Notes	

Key Questions, Metadata and Outline

What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about the good news and truths of scripture found in Amazing Grace.

Why is this sermon important?

This sermon is important because God's grace is necessary and sufficient for each of us.

What is the context of this sermon?

This sermon takes place on communion Sunday, as well as Congregational Care Commissioning.

What are the next action steps?

While our history does not include being the captain of a slave ship, each one of us needs to be saved. What is it for you?

Anger, greed, laziness, pride, lust, envy, indulgence?

God's grace is offered for you.

Where are you in your spiritual journey?

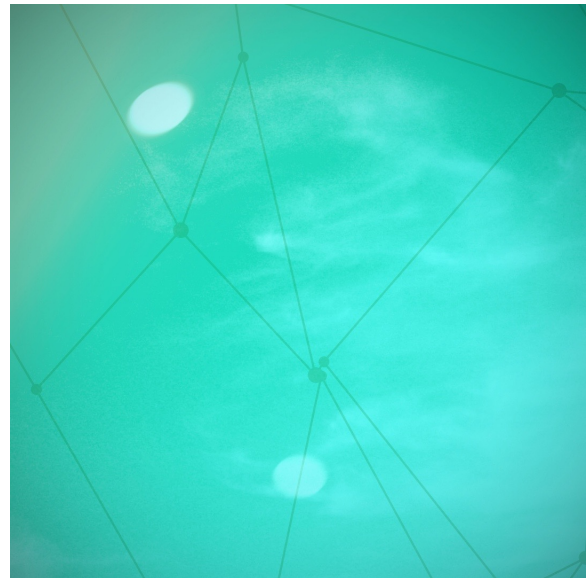
How would you write about your spiritual journey?

What is the good news (bottom line)?

The good news is that God's grace saves our soul, relieves our fears and will lead us home.

Metadata

1. Topic(s)
 1. Grow
 2. Changing Lives



2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Then Sings My Soul - The Grace of Jesus Christ
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado
Text Online at <http://j.mp/1F4naqX>

June 7, 2015
Ephesians 1:7-8
Preaching Target Word Count: 2,050
Audio Online at [Insert Link Here]

2. Sermon Books of the Bible
 1. Ephesians
3. Series
 1. Then Sings My Soul
4. Speaker
 1. Andrew Conard
5. Tags
 1. sermon, worship, church, Methodist, United Methodist, United Methodist Church, First United Methodist Church, El Dorado, Kansas, Great Plains, Annual Conference, Great Plains Annual Conference, Grace, Amazing Grace

This work by Andrew Conard is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>.

Table of Contents

Ephesians 1:7-8, CEB	4
Response to Scripture	
Introduction	4
Sermon Starter Video	
Series Review	
Sermon Notes and Scripture Study	
Opening	5
Prayer	
Amazing Grace - UMH #378	5
Background	
Theology	
Grace	
Spiritual Journey	
Hymn Text	
Verse 1 - New Life in Christ	
Verse 2 - Moment of Conversion	
Verse 3 - Reflection on Journey	
Verse 4 - Looks to the Future	
Verse 5 - Steadfast Faith	
Verse 6 - Eternal Life	
Conclusion	7
Good News	
Call to Action	
Invitation	
Closing Prayer	

Ephesians 1:7-8, CEB

We have been ransomed through his Son's blood, and we have forgiveness for our failures based on his overflowing grace, which he poured over us with wisdom and understanding.

Response to Scripture

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Introduction

Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.

*** Start Sermon Timer ***

Series Review

The great hymns of our faith share the truth of scripture. They remind us of God's promises in times of trouble and relax our hearts when we are overcome with worry. Songs such as, How Great Thou Art, Amazing Grace, Because He Lives and It Is Well with My Soul, give voice to our praise, prayers and the rhythm of our heart. Join First United Methodist Church on Sunday from May 24 to June 15 for Then Sings My Soul, a worship series focused on the faith we sing.

Sermon Notes and Scripture Study

I invite you to open your bulletin to a place where you can take notes during the message today. Today, I hope that you will hear:

- Something new or find new questions
- Perspective on your life or something in your life that gives additional meaning to the message today.
- Guidance about how to live as a disciple of Jesus.

I invite you to write down some of the things that you hear in the sermon today and take your bulletin home as a tool to grow in your faith outside of worship. You can reflect on what you heard today, pray for people of our congregation and read scripture to prepare for worship next week.

Opening

Prayer

Will you pray with me? O God, use these words to speak good news so that as individuals and as a congregation we will fear nothing but sin, desire nothing but you and live as part of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Amazing Grace - UMH #378

Today, we focus on Amazing Grace, one of the best loved hymns of all time.

Background

John Newton was born in England in 1725. His mother died when he was six years old. His father was a sea captain and when he was eleven, he became an apprentice on his father's ship. For years, he went from port to port, ship to ship "enjoying all the experiences and immoralities offered in each exotic port."¹ He became a slave trader and made three voyages as captain of slave ships.²

John Newton was converted under the influence of George Whitfield and the Wesleys. He was later ordained and became both a leader in the evangelical wing of the Church of England and a vigorous opponent of slavery.

His tombstone epitaph sums up his experience:

"John Newton, clerk, once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slavers in Africa, was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned and appointed to preach the faith he had long labored to destroy."

Theology

Grace

God's grace is one of the central themes of this hymn. Grace is God's freely given and unmerited love that makes it possible for us to live as a child of God.

Spiritual Journey

Another key theme of this hymn is that of a spiritual journey throughout life. "John Newton was referring to his own life and experience when he wrote this monumental hymn."³

¹ Pamela J. Kennedy. *Hymns of Faith & Inspiration* (Nashville: Ideals Publications Incorporated, 1990), 80.

² Wikipedia contributors, "John Newton," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=John_Newton&oldid=663135796 (accessed June 7, 2015).

³ Diana Sanches, Volume Editor. *The Hymns of The United Methodist Hymnal* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989), 134.

Hymn Text

Imagine John Newton's life, he was a slave trader, came to faith in Christ, became a priest. This hymn reads like his spiritual autobiography:

Verse 1 - New Life in Christ

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.

Verse 2 - Moment of Conversion

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

Verse 3 - Reflection on Journey

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

Verse 4 - Looks to the Future

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

Verse 5 - Steadfast Faith

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
a life of joy and peace.

Verse 6 - Eternal Life

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'd first begun.

Conclusion

Good News

The good news is that God's grace saves our soul, relieves our fears and will lead us home.

Call to Action

While our history does not include being the captain of a slave ship, each one of us needs to be saved. What is it for you?

Anger, greed, laziness, pride, lust, envy, indulgence?

God's grace is offered for you.

Where are you in your spiritual journey?

How would you write about your spiritual journey?

Invitation

It doesn't matter where you are in your journey with God, just starting out, deeply committed or not even sure that you want to be on a journey with God...

Amazing Grace is for you.

Closing Prayer

[Text here]

Amen.

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Sermon Time		