

## Amazing Grace

*By Joan Mish*

My husband's favorite spiritual song was 'Amazing Grace.' The Catholic Church we attended in our town had a new priest who had forbidden us singing that song at church for it was not written by a Catholic! So we went to the Catholic Church in the town next to us for a few years before he died.

My husband had arranged before he retired that a good professional black singer, a good friend from work, would sing 'Amazing Grace' at his funeral. Ever since then when I hear this song it brings back wonderful memories. I just found this on Wikipedia:

"Amazing Grace taps into the essence of what it means to believe in God, and the universal love that believers bestow on it indicate that it is a powerful representation of the faith. For a funeral ceremony it is often sung."

But now for a fun story a friend just told me last week as she played this song on her piano for me over the phone. (Every few weeks we play a song over FaceTime for each other.) The story she told me was about her daughter Grace, a newborn. And one day after school she brought her into our middle school building just as my husband dropped by. She introduced Grace to my husband. My husband picked up the baby and sang 'Amazing Grace' to the new baby! I don't know if I had ever heard that story before.

Here are the words to the first verse:

Amazing grace  
How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost  
But now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see.