



A Lenten Mosaic - Living In Grace Lent 2020

**Devotion for Wednesday,
March 11, 2020**

By Amy Shortt

This Lenten season, we are exploring grace in a mosaic of ways. The word grace can have many different meanings such as "to grace someone with your presence" or "to move gracefully or with elegance." We probably all know someone with the name Grace.

One definition explained grace in this way, ". . . an influence which operates in humans to regenerate and sanctify, to inspire virtuous impulses, and to impart strength to endure trial and resist temptation; and as an individual virtue or excellence of divine origin."

Grace seems to be a divine force that moves and shapes healing and, for me, the best example of grace is music.

When teaching or speaking about music to my choirs and students, I often refer to music as a gift, a gift God gives to us and, in return, we give to others. Music is a joy and delight with which God graces the whole creation. We did not bargain for it. We don't deserve it. It is simply freely given, there for the hearing and receiving as a joyous overflow of creation's goodness.

Music has the unique power to uplift, transform, refresh, and recreate the heart and soul, propelling our actions to create a more perfect union of all that is good. It is a healing art.

The response to God's grace is for music to be expressed, formed, and shaped with great care and responsibility.

Music plays a vital role in the church as it helps us express our prayers as well as our praise in a way no other can. Each person's participation in the music of worship, whether singing a congregational hymn or an anthem sung by the choirs, must be done to the best of our ability with sincerity of heart.

So I encourage you, no matter what, Sing! Lift your voice in praise! Sing your prayers and longings! Make music in your heart to the Lord! We are all stewards of God's gracious gift and all in need of the healing power of God's amazing grace.

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

An audio version of the hymn below can be heard at

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=hwBewCxunLO>

(You may need to copy and paste the website link into your web browser.)

Prayer

Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.

Give us strength to love each other,
every sister, every brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.

You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.

You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.

In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love.