

# Devotion, Week of May 18, 2025—Fifth Week of Eastertide

## Rev. Jeanne Simpson

In our PW Retreat on May 17, we looked at the hymn “Amazing Grace” by John Newton, as well as the concept of amazing grace. I shared a Cherokee version of the hymn sung by Rita Cooledge, and I am including information about it here, as well as the Cherokee and English paraphrasing of the words.

While on the "Trail of Tears" in 1838, the Cherokee were not always able to give their dead a full burial. Instead, they sang a paraphrase of “Amazing Grace,” previously made by Samuel Worcester. For this reason, this hymn is extremely popular with native Americans and considered their Cherokee National Anthem. You can listen to this version on YouTube if you search for “Rita Cooledge, Cherokee Version of Amazing Grace.”

<i>u ne la nv i u we tsi</i>	<i>God's Son (Our Creator's Son)</i>
<i>i ga gu yv he l</i>	<i>paid for us.</i>
<i>hna quo tso sv wi yu lo se</i>	<i>Now to Heaven He went</i>
<i>i ga gu yv ho nv</i>	<i>after paying for us.</i>

<i>a se no i u ne tsi l</i>	<i>Then He spoke</i>
<i>i yu no du le nv</i>	<i>when He rose.</i>
<i>ta li ne dv tsi lu tsi l</i>	<i>“I'll come the second time”</i>
<i>u dv ne u ne tsv</i>	<i>He said when He spoke.</i>

<i>e lo ni gv ni li s qua di</i>	<i>All the world will end</i>
<i>ga lu tsv ha i yu</i>	<i>when He returns.</i>
<i>ni ga di da ye di go l</i>	<i>We will all see Him</i>
<i>a ni e lo hi gv</i>	<i>here the world over.</i>

<i>a na da nv ti a ne hv</i>	<i>The righteous who live</i>
<i>do da ya nv hi li</i>	<i>He will come after.</i>
<i>tso sv hna quo ni go hi lv</i>	<i>In heaven now always</i>
<i>do hi wa ne he s di</i>	<i>in peace they will live.</i>

I am amazed that these people, thrown off their land and sent with great deprivation to a place far away on that Trail of Tears, maintained their faith. I am proud to have Cherokee blood in my ancestry and pray that we never torment our brothers and sisters like this ever again. *Nvwadohiyadv hatseliga gesesdi* (peace be with you).

*Jeanne*