

19th September 2021

Sight

**"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."**

John Newton, Amazing Grace

In a few weeks' time I'll be leading worship in my church. The Lectionary Readings include the Gospel story of Jesus' encounter with a blind man, Bartimaeus, whose sight he restored. I needed a suitable hymn, and, apart from John Newton's reference to "was blind, but now I see" in *Amazing Grace*, I couldn't find much that was helpful. So, in the spirit of reflection and devotion I referred to yesterday in my hymn-writing, and looking at the blindness of our heart, soul and mind as well as our body, this is what I've written. It's entitled, "Open My Eyes".** A poem, a song, a prayer, a reflection, a hymn? You decide. But I know where it's come from and I know where it's going, and that feels sufficient for now.

Your presence, Lord, I seek to know, though You I may not see.

I come with hope; my one desire is that You come to me.

Open my eyes that I might know Your closeness as I wait.

Open my hands, that I might hold Your mercy, full and great.

Though blinded by my selfish ways, cast down in sin and shame,

I turn to God's forgiving love to find His peace again.

Open my eyes to life and truth; for Christ's own light I pray.

Open my soul and bid me come to walk His pilgrim way.

Though blinded by the world's desires, and tempted by its power,

I seek the Spirit's blessing here in this, my needful hour.

Open my eyes to grace and love, to mercies sure and true.

Open my mind that I may feel my life transformed in You.

Though blinded by my own concerns, my needs above the rest,

I hear Your call to care for those in sorrow and distress.

Open my eyes that I might bring compassion to their plight.

Open my heart that I might show Your life, and love, and light.

A prayer for today

"Focus my eyes on you, O Lord."

Ian White (1988)

An original reflection and hymn by © Tom Gordon

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** *Open My Eyes* is written to be sung to the tune, "St Matthew" by William Croft (1678-1727)