

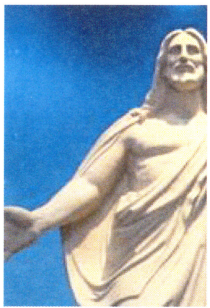


# "I Stand All Amazed"

2016 April Hymn of the Month

*Just as picturesque scenes can bring peace and calmness to the soul, so does beautiful music*

## The Hymn

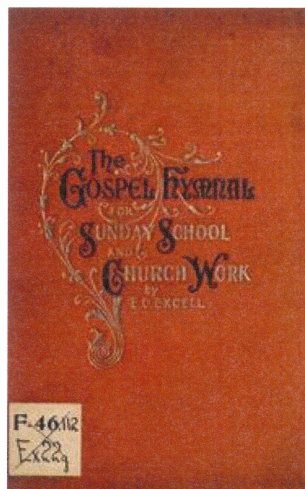


With the observance of Easter this year so recently past, thoughts of the Savior, Jesus Christ, are fresh in the minds of Christians everywhere. In areas of the world

where the month of April means springtime, additional reminders of the Savior surround us in the symbolism of nature. The cold, stone tomb from which the risen Lord emerged as the first living, resurrected being is brought to our remembrance by the hard shells of bird's eggs, from which baby chicks emerge in the springtime. Winter dormant trees and shrubs, which appear to be dead, bring forth leaves and blossoms, again reminding us of the resurrection of the Savior. The birth of spring lambs reminds us of the "Lamb of God" and the Savior's sacrifice and atonement for each repentant sinner.

It is human nature to take things that are familiar to us for granted. When we think about it, however, that life exists at all on this planet is a wonderful, amazing thing. Scientists have

## The Text



## The Author & Composer



Charles Hutchinson Gabriel was born to Isaac and Cleopatra Gabriel in August of 1856 at Cedar County, Iowa. The family had moved to Iowa from Ohio the previous year and settled on a

farm. Charles was the fourth child and first son.

It is recorded that his father was a poor farmer, but the family was musical and conducted singing schools in their home. Young Charles was said to have taught himself to play the family's reed organ and by the age of sixteen was teaching in singing schools himself. He continued learning and by the age of twenty was becoming known as a composer.

About 1890 it is reported that he moved to California and became music director of the Grace Methodist Episcopal Church at San Francisco. While there it is said he published his first commercial work.



estimated that to travel to the nearest star, Proxima Centauri, and any planets that might be around it, would take the space shuttle 70,000 years. With this perspective, to have an opportunity to experience mortal life on this earth is a great gift.

In the Bible New Testament, the book of John tells us that Jesus Christ was He who was with God in the beginning and who made all things, thus being the creator of the world and the solar system that makes life possible. He was "made flesh and dwelt among us." That a being with the ability to set planets in motion would lower Himself, or condescend, to be subject to human limitations in order to offer us everlasting life is truly amazing and wonderful as our hymn describes.

As recorded in the book of John in the Bible, Jesus said that because God loved the world, he was sent down from heaven to do the Father's will, that every one that believed on him might have everlasting life, and be raised up at the last day. This love and its attending grace, or divine assistance, is the subject of the first verse. The author's meaning of the term 'stand' in the context of "I stand all amazed" is 'to be in a particular state or situation.' Another way to state the first line could be: I am in a state of complete amazement as I understand the love Jesus offers me."

It is instructive to note that 'offer' and 'proffer' are synonyms, however, 'proffer' has a much narrower definition, meaning 'to present for acceptance.' As the hymn text states, the Lord presents his grace, or divine assistance, for our acceptance. That he would offer his sacrifice and atonement for all, even rebellious sinners who reject him, can be difficult for the human mind to comprehend, thus the author's use of the word 'confused.'

It was common in Biblical times for poor people to be sold as bondmen, or bondmaids, and they became the property of those who bought them.

# "I Stand All Amazed"

Text as found in the 1985 LDS Hymnal  
(unchanged from the original)

I stand all amazed at the love Jesus  
offers me,  
Confused at the grace that so fully he  
proffers me.  
I tremble to know that for me he was  
crucified,  
That for me, a sinner, he suffered, he  
bled and died.

I marvel that he would descend from his  
 throne divine  
 To rescue a soul so rebellious and proud  
 as mine,  
 That he should extend his great love  
 unto such as I,  
 Sufficient to own, to redeem and to  
 justify.

I think of his hands pierced and  
bleeding to pay the debt!  
Such mercy, such love, and devotion  
can I forget?  
No, no, I will praise and adore at the  
mercy seat,  
Until at the glorified throne I kneel at  
his feet.

Chorus:  
Oh, it is wonderful that he should care  
for me  
Enough to die for me!  
Oh, it is wonderful, wonderful to me!

Charles relocated to Chicago a few years later and about 1912 began the work at the Rodeheaver Publishing Company which would occupy the remainder of his career. A prolific songwriter and composer, he is known to have authored over 800 texts and tunes according to [hymnary.org](http://hymnary.org), and is believed to have written many more. He used several pseudonyms as well as his own name. He was involved in the editing and publication of over sixty music books and collections. He also published an autobiography.

At the age of 76, Charles was residing in Los Angeles, California with his son, Charles Jr., when his remarkable life drew to a close in September of 1932.

Charles Gabriel's contributions to gospel music were formally recognized in 1982 when he was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

The faith and talent of Charles Gabriel, who went from farm boy to accomplished musician, continues to inspire us as we relate to his expressions of devotion in "I Stand All Amazed."

until they were redeemed, or bought back by their family. This is likely the context in which the author uses the terms 'to own' and 'to redeem' in the second verse. The Savior's infinite sacrifice and atonement pay the price of our sin if we repent and accept it, thus through his infinite love he buys us back, or redeems us from sin, and in a sense owns us as a master would own a bondservant. Thus through his grace and our works we are justified, or pardoned and absolved. We could then paraphrase the hymn text to say: I marvel at the condescension of the Savior who extends his love to me, which is sufficiently great to redeem and own me, and to justify me.

In the third verse the author states his intention to never forget the mercy, love and devotion of the Savior as he suffered on the cross, and to offer praise and adoration at the "mercy seat" until the time when he can kneel in person at the Savior's feet. It is instructive to note that the "mercy seat" mentioned here is likely a reference to that described in the Bible, placed by Moses over the ark of the covenant in the Tabernacle. From above the mercy seat, the Lord told Moses that he would commune with him and give him commandments for the children of Israel. We might consider where we would go to find a sacred modern 'mercy seat' to commune with the Lord, give praise and adoration, and receive personal revelation.

With the author in the chorus we can declare how wonderful it is that the Lord cared for us enough to die for us, to give us the promise of eternal life.

It is believed that our hymn "I Stand All Amazed" was first published in 1899 in a hymn collection edited by E. O. Excell, titled "The Gospel Hymnal for Sunday School and Church Work."

See the images at the top of the second column as found at [archive.org](http://archive.org). It is interesting to note that our February Hymn of the Month, "You Can Make

the Pathway Bright," was also introduced in this same publication. The original title of our hymn was the first phrase of the chorus, "Oh, It is Wonderful," and this title was used in many hymnals of the time. The music of the hymn in 3/4 time was arranged with the verses sung as a tenor and alto duet, the tenor singing the melody. in the chorus, the men's voices provided an echo of "wonderful, wonderful" under the words "care for me" and "die for me."

The hymn was included with this title in the 1909 edition of "Deseret Sunday School Songs" published by the Deseret Sunday School Union of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) at Salt Lake City, Utah. In the 1948 edition of "Hymns, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints" (LDS Hymnal) the title of the hymn was changed to the first phrase, "I Stand All Amazed," and the verses became a treble duet, keeping the bass echo in the chorus. In the current 1985 edition of the LDS Hymnal, the music was transposed to a slightly lower key, the verses remained in a treble duet and the chorus was changed to four-part harmony throughout.

The hymn text and music were written by the same man, Charles H. Gabriel. "I Stand All Amazed" remains a timeless classic hymn with a great message of love and salvation.



#### Information in this article came from :

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