

# Amazing Grace— How Sweet the Sound

Chords: G, Em, C, G

1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound—  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me,  
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years,

Chords: D, G, D, G

that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost  
 and grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did  
 his word my hope se - cures; he will my shield  
 I have al - read - y come; 'tis grace hath brought  
 bright shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days

Chords: C, G, Em, G/D, D7, G

but now am found, was blind but now I see.  
 that grace ap - pear the hour - I first be - lieved!  
 and por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 to sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: st. 1-4, John Newton, 1779; st. 5, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790  
 Tune: *Virginia Harmony*, 1831; adapt. and harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900



CM  
 NEW BRITAIN  
[www.hymnary.org/text/amazing\\_grace\\_how\\_sweet\\_the\\_sound](http://www.hymnary.org/text/amazing_grace_how_sweet_the_sound)

# Follow the Drinking Gourd

Dm Am Dm Dm Dm Dm Dm Dm Am DmDm

When the sun comes back and the first quail calls - Follow the drinking gourd.

F C Dm Am Dm Am Dm

For the Old Man's a-wait-ing for to carry you to freedom Follow the drinking gourd.

G G Dm Dm G G Dm Dm

Follow the drinking gourd Follow the drinking gourd for the

F C Dm Am Dm Am Dm

old man - is a - wait - ing for to carry you to freedom Follow the drinking - ing gourd.

2. On the river bank makes a very true road.  
 Dead trees will mark the way.  
 The left foot, peg foot, traveling on.  
 Follow the drinking gourd.

Chorus:  
 Follow the drinking gourd.  
 Follow the drinking gourd.  
 For the Old Man is a waiting for to carry you to freedom  
 Follow the drinking gourd.

3. Now the river ends in between two hills,  
 Follow the drinking gourd.  
 There's another river on the other side.  
 Follow the drinking gourd.

Chorus  
 4. When the great big river meets the little river  
 Follow the drinking gourd  
 For the Old Man is a waiting for to carry you to freedom  
 Follow the drinking gourd.  
 Chorus

For information on the background of this song, and ideas on how to teach it, see *Teaching American History with Favorite Folk Songs* (2002) Tracy West. Scholastic Professional Books, New York. This publication includes other songs from American history, a CD with recordings of all songs, and many activities to reinforce understanding of American history.

## SINGING

This song is an example of one way the slaves communicated so their white masters would not understand. A drinking gourd was a hollowed-out gourd used for drinking. But in this song the slaves used the term to refer to a similar shape made by the stars in the sky. Invite the children to listen and tell you what they think the drinking gourd really was. (The big dipper). Sing the song several times, asking the children to listen for other code words or phrases in the song. Leading questions might include: What time of year was it? Spring--sun comes and first quail calls. When should they travel? Night--when the drinking gourd is out. What did they use for a road? River-bank. How many rivers did they follow? Three (Tombigbee, Tennessee, Ohio). Tell them that there is a story about a man named Peg-leg Joe. He is the "Old Man" in this song. He put marks on trees so the slaves would know which way to go. When they arrived at the last river, he picked them up in a boat and carried them across the river into Canada, where they would be safe. Invite class to keep beat while singing and determine the pattern of strong and weak beats in four. Teach them to conduct while they sing. Let children take turns conducting the class singing.

## PLAYING INSTRUMENTS

Play guitar or autoharp while singing this song. Help children become aware that a song has a melody and may have an accompaniment. Tell the children the song is in a minor key which gives it kind of a mysterious feeling. The autoharp plays chords which help create the minor sound. Teach children which chords to use on the autoharp and let them take turns accompanying this song. Notice that some of the chords are major and when they play the song has a major sound. Children might also enjoy creating sound effects for this song. Help them determine what instruments or voice sounds would work at certain places to add to the mood of the words.

## CREATING

Invite children to make up a verse to the song using coded directions. Perhaps they could sing about going from the class room to the lunch room, or to a nearby store. Think of things they pass on the way and how they could use those in the song. Dramatize the song and use instruments to make sound effects for the drama.

## LISTENING

•Scholastic puts out a magnificent work book and CD recording of this song. "Teaching American History with Favorite Folk Songs." ISBN: 0-439-04387-5. It is wonderful! Play the recording and invite the children to sing along. •Play major and minor chords for children on the autoharp. Help them notice the difference. Ask them to use words to describe the difference in feeling. Play a game where children have to guess which chord you are playing--major or minor. Play like a relay. The winning side can chose one of its members to play the song on autoharp while everyone sings.

## INTEGRATING

Read *Follow the Drinking Gourd* by Jeanette Winter. Dragonfly Books. ISBN: 0-679-81997-5. Notice how the story and song work together. Study the history of the Civil War and include stories of the Underground Railroad. Invite children to do research on slavery in America. Put the words of the song on a chart and encourage children to read the words as they sing the song.

### **Follow the Drinking Gourd**

# When Israel Was in Egypt's Land

Capo 3:  $\square$  Gm(Em) D<sup>7</sup>(B<sup>7</sup>) Gm(Em) D<sup>7</sup>(B<sup>7</sup>) Gm(Em)

1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land,  
 2 The Lord told Mo - ses what to do,  
 3 As Is - rael stood by the wa - ter - side, Let my peo - ple go,  
 4 When they had reached the oth - er shore,  
 5 Lord, help us all from bond - age flee,

op - pressed so hard they could not stand,  
 to lead the He - brew chil - dren through,  
 at God's com - mand it did di - vide, Let my peo - ple go.  
 they let the song of tri - umph soar,  
 and let us all in Christ be free,

*Refrain* Cm(Am) Gm(Em) D<sup>7</sup>(B<sup>7</sup>) Gm(Em)

Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land,

Cm<sup>7</sup>(Am<sup>7</sup>) Gm(Em) D(B) Gm(Em) D<sup>7</sup>(B<sup>7</sup>) Gm(Em)

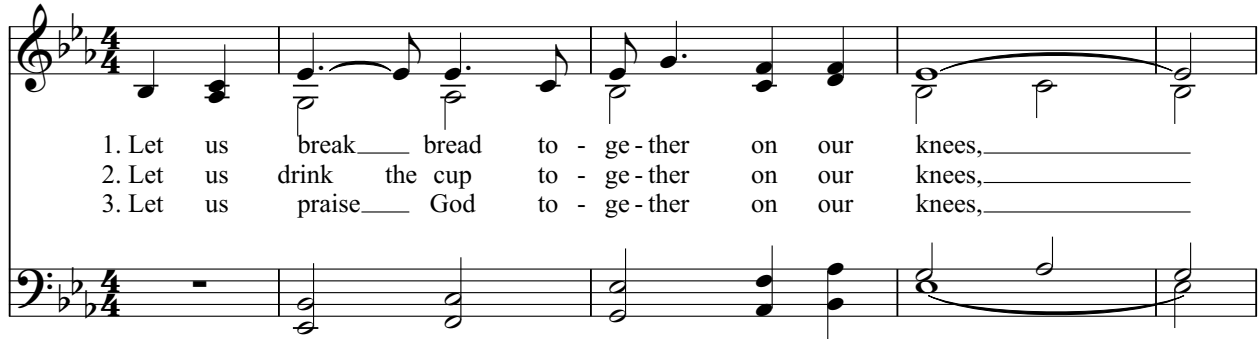
tell old Pha - raoh: Let my peo - ple go.

Text and tune: Afro-American spiritual; harm.  
 John W. Work, 1871-1925



irregular  
 GO DOWN, MOSES  
[www.hymnary.org/text/when\\_israel\\_was\\_in\\_egypts\\_land](http://www.hymnary.org/text/when_israel_was_in_egypts_land)

# Let Us Break Bread Together




1. Let us break bread to - ge - ther on our knees,  
2. Let us drink the cup to - ge - ther on our knees,  
3. Let us praise God to - ge - ther on our knees,



Let us break bread to - ge - ther on our knees;  
Let us drink the cup to - ge - ther on our knees;  
Let us praise God to - ge - ther on our knees;



When I fall on my knees, With my face to the ri - sing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: Negro Spiritual  
Tune: Negro Spiritual;  
arr. William J. Reynolds, 1920-



Irregular  
BREAK BREAD  
[www.hymnary.org/text/let\\_us\\_break\\_bread\\_together\\_on\\_our\\_knees](http://www.hymnary.org/text/let_us_break_bread_together_on_our_knees)

# Steal Away

## Refrain

Steal a - way, steal a - way, steal a - way to Je - sus!

Steal a - way, steal a - way home, I ain't got long to stay here.

1 My Lord, he calls me, he calls me by the thun - der;  
2 Green trees are ben - ding, poor sin - ners stand a trem - bling;  
3 My Lord, he calls me, he calls me by the light - ning;

the trum-pet sounds with - in\_\_ my soul; I ain't got long to stay here.

Text: African-American spiritual  
Tune: African-American spiritual



Irregular  
STEAL AWAY  
[www.hymnary.org/text/my\\_lord\\_he\\_calls\\_me](http://www.hymnary.org/text/my_lord_he_calls_me)

# Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

## Refrain

Swing low, sweet cha - ri - ot, co-ming for to car - ry me home;

swing low, sweet cha - ri - ot, co-ming for to car - ry me home.

1 I looked o - ver Jor - dan, and what did I see,  
 2 If you get there be - fore I do,  
 3 I'm some - times up, I'm some - times down

co - ming for to car - ry me home? A band of an - gels  
 co - ming for to car - ry me home; tell all my friends I'm  
 co - ming for to car - ry me home; but still my soul feels

## to Refrain

co - ming af - ter me, co - ming for to car - ry me home.  
 co - ming too, co - ming for to car - ry me home.  
 hea - ven - ly bound, co - ming for to car - ry me home.

Text: African-American spiritual  
 Tune: African-American spiritual



10 8 10 8 Refrain  
 SWING LOW

[www.hymnary.org/text/i\\_looked\\_over\\_jordan\\_and\\_what\\_did\\_i\\_see](http://www.hymnary.org/text/i_looked_over_jordan_and_what_did_i_see)

# Wade in the Water

African American Spiritual

Choir

Em B Em

Wade in the wa - ter, Wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,

5 Em C B Em

Wade in the wa - ter, God's a-goin' a trou-ble the wa - ter.

9 Em C B Em

See that host all dressed in white, God's a-goin' a trou-ble the wa - ter. The  
See that band all dressed in red, Looks  
Look o - ver yon-der, what do I see? The  
If you don't be lieve I've been re - deemed, Just

13 Em C7 Em C B Em

lea-der looks like the Is - rae lite. God's a-goin' a trou-ble the wa - ter.  
like the band that Mo - ses led.  
Ho - ly Ghost a - com-ing on me.  
fol-low me down to Jor - dan's stream.