

## Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a soul like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

Our God has promised good to us  
God's love my hope secures;  
God will my shield and portion be,  
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

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**Words of the Liturgy:** Michael Bayly.

**Song Leader:** Kathleen Olsen.

**Bagpiper:** Scott Bartell.

**Readers:** Tom Murr, Myrna Ohmann, Michael Bayly,  
Mary Lynn Murphy, Bill LeMay, and Tom White.

**Banners:** Courtesy of Spirit of the Lakes UCC.

**Special Thanks** to Mike Murphy, Beverly Barrett, Mary Beckfeld,  
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To learn more about Catholic Rainbow Parents,  
visit [www.catholicrainbowparents.com](http://www.catholicrainbowparents.com).

# Declaring Our Truth

A Ritual of Affirmation and Sending Forth



## Catholic Rainbow Parents

October 12, 2005

Cathedral of St. Paul, Minnesota

## RITUAL OF AFFIRMATION AND SENDING FORTH

### Gathering Hymn: Who Will Speak?

Who will speak if we don't?  
Who will speak if we don't?  
Who will speak so their voice will be heard?  
O, who will speak if we don't?

### Words of Welcome: Tom Murr.

### Opening Prayer:

Compassionate Creator,  
within and beyond all things,  
holy are your names.  
May your ways of wisdom and compassion  
be known and embodied by all.  
Be with us as we gather  
to affirm our gay, lesbian, bisexual,  
and transgender children.  
Guide and strengthen us  
as we reach out to touch the hearts and minds of others  
with your transforming wisdom and love that we have experienced  
as parents of gay, lesbian, bisexual,  
and transgender people.  
Amen.

### First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-5, 15-18.

**Song/Response:** "It Won't Be Long" by Ray Makeever.

**Second Reading:** The Catholic Rainbow  
Parents' Declaration.

**A Multi-Voice Homily:** Catholic Rainbow Parents.

### Words of Sending Forth:

Loving God,  
You call us to be active participants in your creative work  
by emptying ourselves of fear and shame  
and allowing our words and actions to be living vessels  
of your transforming light and love.  
And so we go forth together  
to illuminate the dark corners of ignorance  
and warm the cold hearts of indifference.  
Your grace inspires and sustains us in our efforts,  
and our songs of honor and praise  
will forever accompany us  
on our way.  
Amen.

*(Please join us in a candlelight procession as we make our  
way to the nearest US mail box and send our Catholic  
Rainbow Declaration to both the Vatican and the US  
Conference of Catholic Bishops.)*

**Hymn of Sending Forth:** Amazing Grace.