

## Grace Is Amazing (Cherie Call)

I've got a mountain made of pennies, and it's gotten ten feet high  
I know it doesn't reach to heaven, but I'm sure gonna try  
To make it high enough to lift me; I will build it with my hands  
I'll mow a hundred thousand lawns, and I'll make lemonade stands

I've got a bucket full of quarters to take my soul and get it cleaned  
I'll use the fanciest detergent, I will try the best machines  
The muddy patches fade a little, but it mostly stays the same  
I wade around in all the bubbles when all I need is a name  
One name cleans my slate and marks my way

Every day and every moment that I turn my heart to Him  
He's gonna reach and pull me in; you know,  
Grace is amazing  
So you've heard the people saying it a hundred times before  
I'm gonna tell you a thousand more; you know,  
Grace is amazing, grace is amazing, grace is amazing

I pin a number to my outfit and I swim a sea of tears  
I've been trying now to cross it for 150 years  
I've been treading 'round in circles, and I might not even place  
I got lost in all my seeking in this crazy human race

I've got a mountain made of pennies, but it's only ten feet high  
I spent my bucket full of quarters, and I just break down and cry  
But Jesus finds me in my sorrow, and He heals and makes me whole  
He's paid the ultimate to save me and buy me back my soul  
One name heals my heart, unlocks the gate

I forgive and I'm forgiven, I cry and someday heal  
He is the reason; grace is the reason  
It's simple and it's difficult, it's impossible but real  
He is amazing, grace is amazing

Thank you for Joining us

Prayer Leader  
Mary Timko  
12/29/15

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## God Does the Transforming



Our prayer is characterized  
by silence

**Be still and know that I am God!**

In that silence we listen for a new word.  
God is present in all our lives.  
God cares for us, and  
our life experiences are a source  
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence  
we share from our hearts.

### To Ponder: Mary Timko

Caryll Houselander's reflections go beyond the Advent Season. Her thoughts on Christmas and the New Year urge us to rejoice in the excitement of the Christ Child and be willing to do our part to make this excitement known to those we encounter in our daily life. Houselander's writings coax us to see beyond the child and compel us to see how this event should change our lives. "Because God is real and truly enfleshed in Christ, there is a weight his presence has on the world." It is up to those who know of this presence to share it.

The Christ Child came not only to save but to be an example of how to be human. Christ's birth is our call to realize the power we have as humans, the power God gave us as His children. In this call we are to be the transformation that humanity needs, that our world needs. God calls us to move out of our stagnant behavior and be a cause for justice, be those that love tenderly, be those that offer to ease the suffering of others. We are asked to let Christ be our guide and walk humbly with him listening to his Word and doing the works He asks of us. This is how Caryll Houselander sees us taking the power God and giving it to those in need. If we are willing to be selfless and courageous and trust in the power of God, He can mold and fashion us into true disciples of Christ.

I hear and can offer a million reasons why it is so difficult to follow our Lord. It is difficult for me to find time to listen and let God lead. I am tired at the end of the day, the start of one too. It is easy to give in to the fatigue that everyday life dishes out. It is easy to say that the little I may do is too small to make a difference. And then there is forgiveness. Sometimes it is so difficult to let go of the hurt caused by those closest to us. Only God can give us the grace needed to follow, the grace needed to give of ourselves despite the fatigue, and the grace needed to forgive. It is only by submitting to God's will that we truly find our way.

Houselander encourages us saying, "We are not alone. God journey's with us, **and** we journey together."

### Reading:

COME TO ME with a teachable spirit, eager to be changed. A close walk with Me is a life of continual newness. Do not cling to old ways as you step into a new year. Instead, seek My Face with an open mind, knowing that your journey with Me involves being *transformed by the renewing of your mind*. As you focus your thoughts on Me, be aware that I am fully attentive to you. I see you with a steady eye, because My attention span is infinite. I know and understand you completely; My thoughts embrace you in everlasting Love. *I also know the plans I have for you: plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.* Give yourself fully to this adventure of increasing attentiveness to My Presence.

### Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...

O Jesus, Prince of Peace and Mighty God, stir up in us the fire of commitment this Christmas, so that we will accomplish your will with courage.