Consider the Joy

CABF Cross-Canada Conference

October 25-28, 2026

The Interior Terrain of Reconciliation

Amy Caswell Bratton

Anne Steele (1717-1778)

Great King of kings, eternal God,
Shall mortal creatures dare to raise
Their songs to thy supreme abode,
And join with angels in thy praise?

Man, ah how far remov'd below,
Wrapt in the shades of gloomy night:
His brightest day can only show
A few faint streaks of distant light.
("Humble Worship" in *Poems on Subjects Chiefly Devotional,* 1760)

Desiring to Trust

Lyric by Anne Steele, tune and performed by Andrea Tisher (album, *Awake the Sacred Song*)

Great source of boundless power and grace
attend thy mournful cry
In the dark of deep distress,
To Thee, to Thee I fly

O let me call thy grace to mind
And trust thy glorious name
Jehovah, powerful, wise and kind
Forever is the same

Thou art my strength, my life, my stay
Assist my feeble trust
Drive these distressing fears away
And raise me from the dust

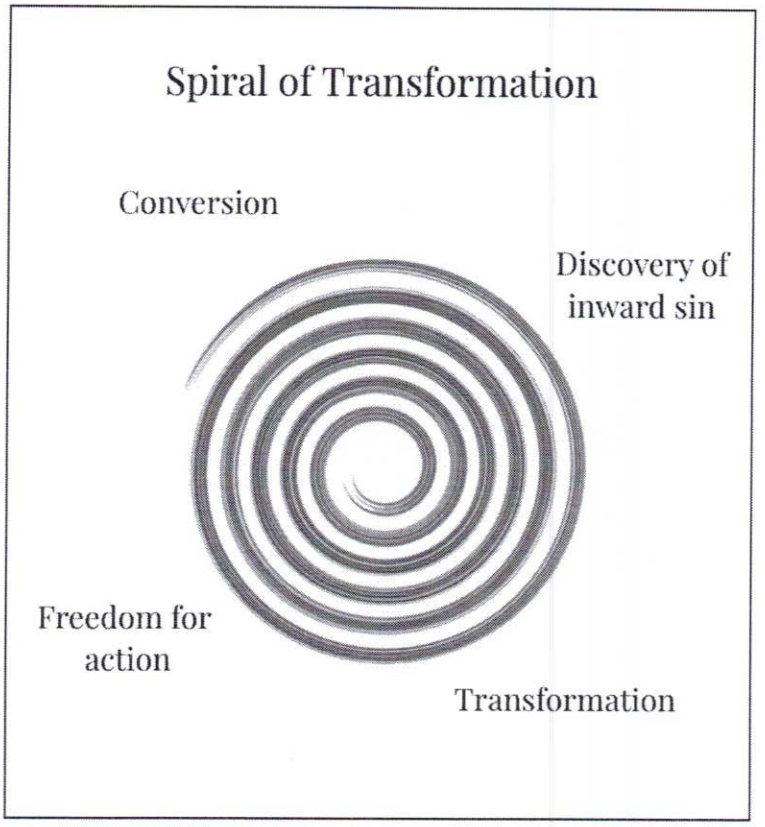
O let me call thy grace to mind
And trust thy glorious name
Jehovah, powerful, wise and kind
Forever is the same

You'll let me rest on thee depend
My God, my hope, my all.
Be thou, my everlasting friend
And I can never fall

O let me call thy grace to mind
And trust thy glorious name
Jehovah, powerful, wise and kind
Forever is the same

George Clark (1710-1797)

"I then pleaded with him, and that with many tears, to make me a partaker of his sanctifying love, by removing forever the bitter root of pride, self-will and unbelief. All this time my heart was broken before the Lord, and my face covered with tears: and I found nothing left but a fear lest the Spirit should depart, before he had purified me from inbred sin. While I was thus agonizing with God in prayer, the power of the Lord came upon me, so that my whole body trembled under it. But I kept my spirit still, and continually cried, 'My heart, Lord! work within! work within!' In that instant I felt the Spirit of God enter into my heart with mighty power, and as it were literally accomplish that promise, *I will take away the heart of stone, and give you a heart of flesh*: the old heart seeming to be taken away, and God himself taking possession ot my soul in the fulness of love: and all the time of the service, I enjoyed such a heaven of love as I never before experienced. All the day watched every motion ot my heart, to see if the evils I before felt were there or not: but I found none: I could find nothing there, but solid joy and heart-felt peace.
(Arminian Magazine, volume 6, page 301. Quoted in Amy Caswell Bratton, *Witnesses of Perfect Love*. 2014. 68-69;)



Questions for Conversation:

1) What surprised you?

2) Do the things expressed in the talk resonate with you and your experience of transcendence and transformation?

3) In the spiral of transformation, where are you at today in reconciling your heart to decolonization and reconciliation?

    Conversion
    Discovery of inward sin
    Transformation
    Freedom for action