

Across the Cosmos February 2025: Living in Awe

This month's column is a brief tribute to the theme of Religion and Science Weekend 2025. I invite you to check out, and use as you see fit, the "Living in Awe" slideshow I recently placed on my [YouTube channel](#).¹ I haven't put much else on YouTube, except several recordings of St. Paul Lutheran Church² choir performances. If anyone is interested in a copy of the Keynote presentation from which the movie slideshow was created, let me know – I may be able to share it with you on Google Drive.

The slideshow is an update of one I created years ago for background "eye-candy" during adult education, public events, science and religion meetings, etc. It includes astronomical images overlaid with quotes by scientists, theologians, and philosophers, and is set to the *Jupiter* movement from *The Planets* by Gustav Holst.³ Some of you may be aware that the central part of this movement has been used in many church hymns, including "O God Beyond All Praising."⁴ I can't think of a more appropriate piece to accompany the grandeur of the images!

If any of you have suggestions for other quotes to use in the future, please don't hesitate to email me – the ones included in the slideshow are skewed primarily toward physical scientists and some prominent Christian and Jewish scholars and theologians. I'm well aware that this is just a small subset of the rich expressions of awe by scientific and religious thinkers alike.

As part of "Living in Awe," I encourage you to "look up." The Royal Observatory in Greenwich has some great suggestions for February night-sky viewing: since St. Valentine was the patron saint of beekeeping, they suggest checking out the Beehive Cluster, and they remind us that February 15 is Galileo's birthday.⁵ You might also want to check out the NASA Astrophysics Valentines⁶ you can download, and the February 14, 2022 Astronomy Picture of the Day, the Heart Nebula.⁷ In other words, Religion and Science Weekend is a particularly appropriate time to stand in awe of the cosmos!

Until next month,

Grace

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¹ <https://www.youtube.com/@gracewolf-chase4809>

² <https://www.stpaulwheaton.org/>

³ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/The-Planets>

⁴ e.g., <https://hymnary.org/hymn/ELW2006/880>

⁵ <https://www.rmg.co.uk/stories/blog/astronomy/night-sky-highlights-february-2025>

⁶ <https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/13556>

⁷ <https://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap220214.html>

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