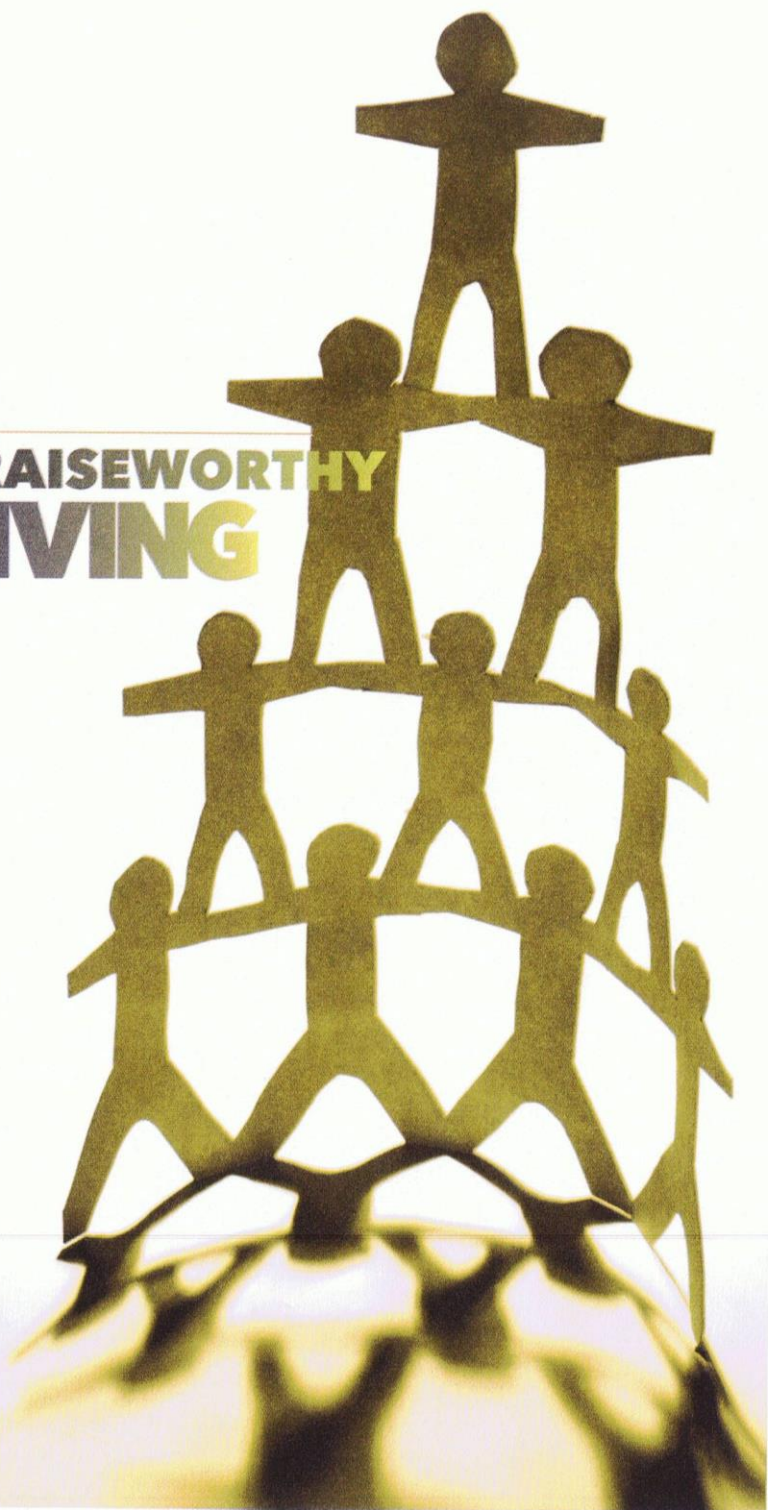


**PRAISEWORTHY
LIVING**



Welcome to St Peter's UCC Virtual Worship Service!

Subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#) to catch a new service at 10am each Sunday! We also share a [podcast](#) weekly of the scripture readings and sermon.

Open Holy Communion. We have communion the 1st Sunday of the month and we invite all Christians and seekers after God to partake of the Lord's Supper with us regardless of denominational background. To participate from home, please have a small cup of juice, wine, or other beverage you are comfortable with, and a piece of bread with you. When Rev. Lanford prompts us to "take and eat" (and "drink"), then we will all do so - physically separated, but together in spirit.

Who We Are. St. Peter's is an Open and Affirming congregation. We've been in the heart of downtown Skokie for over 152 years. We are a part of the United Church of Christ, which means we are passionate about our faith and open in our thinking. We believe in a Triune God who loves everyone, regardless of gender identity, orientation, race, status, or physical or mental ability, and we **welcome all people** to share worship, membership, marriage, baptism, funeral, and fellowship with us.

Attendance. We would like to get to know you better, too! If you are comfortable doing so, please put your first name and last initial in the comments section under the video, and where you are watching us from!

Donations. We have several options for giving, and your donation helps support our church and its various ministries. Now more than ever, every contribution (large or small) is important to keep us going:

- **Text Your Gift.** Text the amount you want to donate to **844-997-2346**.
- **PayPal.** Visit **PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie** Uncheck the "Paying for Goods or Services" box to not pass on the fees to St Peters.
- **Vanco Give+ App.** Download the Vanco GIVE+ app from **iTunes** or **Google Play**, put in the church's zip code 60077 and select St. Peter's from the drop down. Set up an account with a password (or process as a guest), select your donation frequency, amount, and add payment info. There is also an option here to offset the processing fee.
- **Mail a Check.** We are collecting mail daily, and depositing regularly throughout the week.

Contact Us. You can email us – we are accessing email from home during the Shelter-in-Place order. Or call and leave a voicemail, we are picking up messages regularly while we are not in the building. Follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** for daily updates and messages, and check our website for additional details, weekly announcements, and more.

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077
(Oakton and Laramie)

847-673-8166

www.stpeteruccskokie.org

Rev. Richard Lanford (Pastor): revlanford@gmail.com

Laura Olson (Office Manager): office@stpeteruccskokie.org

Ben Westphal (Music Director): bcwestphal@gmail.com

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
Oakton Street and Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL
www.stpeteruccskokie.org
847-673-8166

OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, October 11, 2020 10:00 AM
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE: "Christians, We Have Met Worship" arr. Carlson

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We come into the presence of the Holy
God,

Congregation: *Who may not be grasped,*

P: But may be gazed upon;

C: *Who is not easily understood,*

P: But is full of understanding;

C: *Who does not come at our beck and
call,*

P: But who is always near.

C: *We gather as God's children in
confident assurance that God is
here.*

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Sing: "O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my
prayer; when I call, answer me;
O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my
prayer; come and listen to me!"

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Great God, in so many ways You have invited us to come to the banquet of Your kingdom. We RSVP that we are coming, but let other things take priority -- good things, but not You. You invite us to follow Jesus, to know Your forgiveness and the chance for starting over -- and so often we think a little Jesus will suffice. You long to be in relationship with us, and that sounds good -- but other than Sunday mornings, we often neglect getting to know You through fellowship, prayers, service and even activism. Forgive us when our faith and our following barely scratches the surface of Your beautiful gospel, or when we fail to respond at all. Please have mercy and change us! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Referring to Christ, Paul wrote "And when you were dead in your trespasses . . . God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the

rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it" (Colossians 2:13-15).

Friends, trust the good news: in Jesus Christ crucified and risen, God's love forgives our sins, and by the Spirit can transform us more and more into the image of Christ as we are open and cooperative. In laying hold of the grace of God, let us all say . . .

All: Alleluia! Amen.

***HYMN:**

"I Will Sing of the Mercies"

SSB #4

I will sing of the mer - cies of the Lord for - ev - er, I will
sing, I will sing, I will sing of the mer - cies of the *Fine*
Lord for - ev - er, I will sing of the mer - cies of the Lord.
With my mouth will I make known thy
faith - ful - ness, thy faith - ful - ness. With my mouth will I make
D.C. al fine
known thy faith - ful - ness to all gen - er - a - tions.

Text: Psalm 89:1

Music: FILLMORE, J. H. Fillmore

WORDS ABOUT OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Old Testament:

Mike Ryan

Exodus 32: 1-14

Epistle:

Philippians 4: 1-9

MUSICAL MEDITATION: "For the Beauty of the Earth"

arr. Rice

GOSPEL:

Matthew 22: 1-14

SERMON: "Estimating Relationship with God"

*HYMN: "Jesus Calls Us: O'er the Tumult"

#207

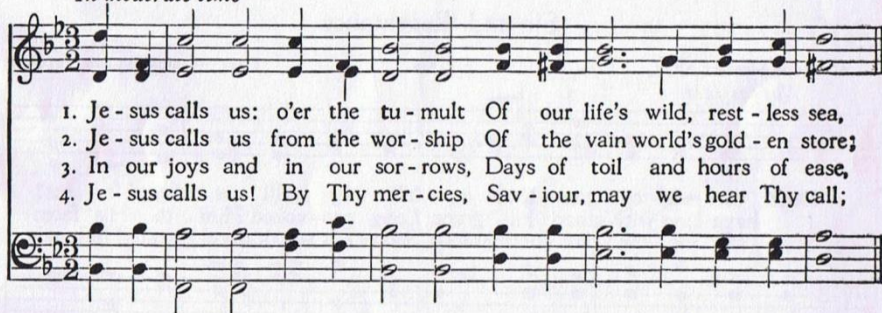
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CECIL FRANCES ALEXANDER, 1852

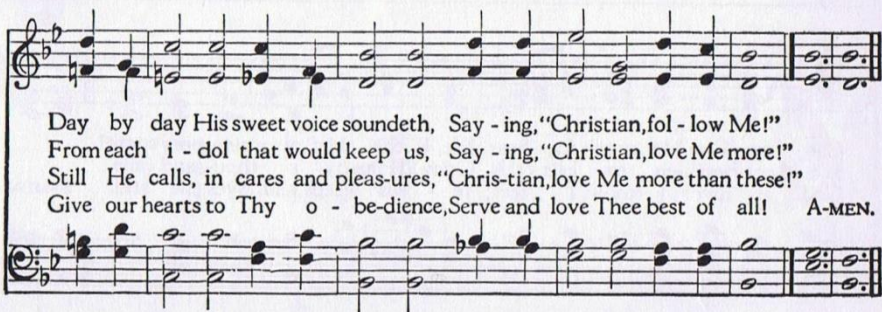
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GALILEE
WILLIAM H. JUDE, 1887

In moderate time



1. Je - sus calls us: o'er the tu - mult Of our life's wild, rest - less sea,
2. Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship Of the vain world's gold - en store;
3. In our joys and in our sor - rows, Days of toil and hours of ease,
4. Je - sus calls us! By Thy mer - cies, Sav - iour, may we hear Thy call;



Day by day His sweet voice soundeth, Say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low Me!"
From each i - dol that would keep us, Say - ing, "Chris - tian, love Me more!"
Still He calls, in cares and pleas - ures, "Chris - tian, love Me more than these!"
Give our hearts to Thy o - be - dience, Serve and love Thee best of all! A - MEN.

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER ('debts')

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil;**

**for Thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen**

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION (from Philippians 4)

P: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say,
Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone.

**C: *Do not worry about anything, but in
everything, by prayer and supplication with
thanksgiving, let your requests be made
known to God.***

P: And the peace of God, which surpasses all
understanding, will guard your hearts and your
minds in Christ Jesus." Amen!

C: *Amen!*

***POSTLUDE:** "Jubilate, Everybody!" by Fred Dunn

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! “O LORD ... [we] will exalt you, [we] will praise your name” (Isaiah 25:1, NRSV). Welcome, friends, as we gather to exalt and praise God.

Thank you to all who helped at the big Rummage clean-up yesterday! We needed everyone’s help.

To expand our understanding as a justice-seeking people, the Micah 6:8 Committee is planning a virtual screening and discussion of the documentary film, “Suppressed: The Fight to Vote.” The program will begin at 11:30 AM today—with the Zoom time starting at 11:15 giving enough after worship to grab a cup of something to make it a virtual coffee hour. The program will include some fellowship, a brief introduction and prayer, the film screening and discussion afterward. Most persons should have received an email with a Zoom link to the event.

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church. No amount is too small! So many thanks to everyone who’s been keeping us going with your donations! See inside front cover for details on how to donate.

OCTOBER IS KITCHEN MONTH AGAIN! - We are not serving in person for the foreseeable future; the meals are prepared by the Kitchen staff (using food purchased with our collective support) and served curbside. Our next date to host is Saturday, October 31st! So we ask if you can please make a contribution to help the Kitchen buy food and prepare our typical meal of sloppy joes, vegetable, salad, drink, fruit and light dessert. The Kitchen needs \$500 to purchase everything. Please follow this link to let us know you can donate:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Tk4nlrEn4tUuoC_AwBMgdYBB3-SuVI7njpFWksYWQn0/edit before October 20th. This link wasn't working last week but has been fixed now. Thank you so very much for keeping one of our long-time missions, and not only that of worship, going!

In Sympathy: We join Bruce and Linda Mau in grieving the recent death of Bruce's sister Jackie Adams, who died September 30th. Services were private due to COVID-19.

Another opportunity to be of generous service is contribute to the Annual NorthShore CROP Walk! Please see this month's Announcer article for the full details, or call or email Susan Garcia who is for sure raising funds through the Walk. You have until October 18th to donate. You and others are also free to sign up on-line at the CWS/NorthShore CROP Walk site to be part of the St. Peter's U.C.C. Skokie team with Susan and raise funds too.

October 18th at 3 PM is our Drive-Thru Pet Blessing: Our Pet Blessing this year will fall in line with our social distancing year! Pastor will bless your furry and you. We plan a few surprises and all while we social distance and wear masks. Donations will be shared between CARE and St. Peter's. Please tell your friends and neighbors. Should it rain, we'll hold it October 25th, same times.

Our next Village Inn Fundraiser is Thursday, October 22nd! Participation was down on the weekends but we're going for a weekday this month. Order food from Village Inn on this day, carryout, delivery or call ahead for in dining reservations. Let your server know you're here for the St.

Peter’s UCC fundraiser and we get 20% of your bill! Tell your friends and neighbors, you don’t have to attend St. Peter’s to help us raise funds!

Next weekend we have three fine events: In a private ceremony on Saturday, we’ll be welcoming Alexander Iannotti into the church through the covenant of baptism!! Also, the Church Council holds a Zoom meeting starting as soon as possible after our virtual worship. If you are responsible for a report, please prepare it and send it to the Council October drop-box as early as you can this week. Then comes the aforementioned Pet Blessing.

Deadline for articles for the November Announcer is Oct. 19.

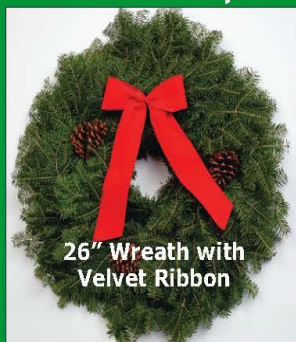
Next week the Lector will be Ben Westphal.

Our wishes of God’s favor go out to Megan and Steven Caras’ daughter Jillian on her birthday today, and to her parents whose wedding anniversary (they were married in our sanctuary) is tomorrow!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Jenn Schneider
VICE-PRESIDENT	Judy Paige
TREASURER	Mandy Steegmueller
SECRETARY	Carolyn Kuechler
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Marcia Hilliard

Handcrafted Wreaths and Decorations

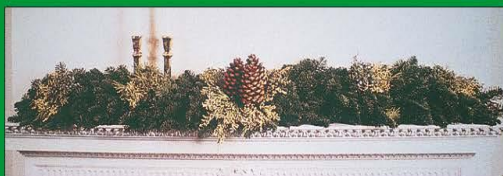


26" Wreath with Velvet Ribbon

Single Face Balsam Outdoor Wreath 26", 36", 48"
Double Face Balsam 36"



Noble Fir Mixed Wreath 20"
Indoor/Outdoor



4' Mantlepice/Centerpiece

Place your order by Friday November 6th.
(Contact Rich Schneider or call 847.673.8166)

Due to COVID-19 concerns, pickup will be on Saturday November 21st from 1 - 4 pm.

26" Single Face Balsam	\$16.00
36" Single Face Balsam	\$27.00
36" Double Face Balsam	\$41.00
48" Single Face Balsam	\$41.00
4' Noble, Cedar, Juniper Mantlepice/Centerpiece	\$41.00
12" Candle Ring Wreath	\$21.00
12" Holiday Yule Log	\$19.00
32" Evergreen Planter	\$29.00
38" Evergreen Planter	\$44.00
Fire Starter Basket	\$19.00
Balsam Door Swag	\$13.00
20" Premium Noble Fir Mix Wreath	\$22.00
24" Boxed Decorator Wreath	\$38.00
25' Balsam Garland	\$25.00
Cemetery Stand	\$6.00



32" Evergreen Planter
38" Evergreen Planter



12" Candle Ring Wreath
with 4" Candle



24" Boxed Decorator Wreath



Holiday Yule Log 12"



25' Balsam Fir Garland



Firestarter Basket



Balsam Swag

CHRISTMAS WREATHS AND MORE!

We are taking orders for pine Christmas wreaths and decorations from Northern Wisconsin to adorn your home or to be placed at a cemetery.

The standard 26 inch diameter wreath, with red velvet bow and pine cones is \$16.00.

Cemetery stands are \$6.00.

Proceeds from this fundraiser help us decorate the church for the holidays with the remainder going to the General Operating Fund.

We will make arrangements for placing wreaths on the St. Peter's UCC Cemetery, if you desire.

All orders must be placed by Friday Nov 6th.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, pickup at St. Peter's will be on Saturday November 21st from 1 - 4 pm.

To place an order:

- **please fill in the form and return with payment** by mailing it to St Peter's.
- or, **email your order to office@stpeteruccskokie.org** and send payment separately via mail, text the amount, or use PayPal. For information on how to use any of these methods, please see the weekly bulletin.

Please make checks payable to:
St. Peter's UCC.

Name		
Address		
I will pick up my order up at church		
Please place on cemetery for:		
Item Description	Price	Quantity
26" Single Face Balsam Wreath w/ Velvet Ribbon for Home or Cemetery	\$16.00	
Cemetery Stands	\$6.00	
36" Single Face Balsam Wreath	\$27.00	
36" Double Face Balsam Wreath	\$41.00	
48" Single Face Balsam Wreath	\$41.00	
4' Noble Mix Mantel piece / Centerpiece	\$41.00	
12" Mixed Noble Candle Ring Wreath w/ 4" Candle	\$21.00	
12" Holiday Yule Log	\$19.00	
Outdoor Evergreen Planter (32")	\$29.00	
Supersized Outdoor Evergreen Planter (38")	\$44.00	
Fire Starter Basket	\$19.00	
Balsam Door Swag	\$13.00	
20" Premium Noble Fir Mix Wreath	\$22.00	
24" Decorator Wreath Boxed w/ Velvet Ribbon	\$38.00	
25' Balsam Garland	\$25.00	



THURSDAY OCTOBER 22, 2020

FOOD FUNDRAISER

Order from Village Inn Pizza in Skokie (8050 Lincoln Ave) on this day for carryout, delivery or call ahead to dine in and tell your server you are here for St. Peter's UCC Fundraiser and we get 20% of your total. Help our missions and a local small business and help yourself to a meal you didn't have to cook!

All proceeds go to help keep St. Peter's UCC going strong! Anyone can order food for us on this day, so tell your friends and neighbors! Thanks so much for your support!

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 11, 2020

Philippians 4:1-9

Praiseworthy Living *Access Sunday and Disabilities Awareness Week*

In today's reading, Paul sends a letter of encouragement and hope to his beloved friends in Philippi. For centuries, letters have been the way that we reach across the divide of geography to offer solace and challenge with our words. As people of the Word, we continue that tradition whenever we send a letter.

Last March, as the world braced for a pandemic, The Council of Conference Ministers as well as The Officers of the United Church of Christ (The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, The Rev. Traci Blackmon and The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson) sent a letter in the Pauline tradition. As news of the COVID-19 pandemic first began to break, these pastor leaders reached across geography with words to bring hope and comfort.

"As leaders in our beloved United Church of Christ, we write to speak a word of tender care to our congregations, our clergy, and our members...

Remember that we are a Christmas people, and that Jesus is incarnated in every act of love and kindness we extend to one another.

Remember that we are an Easter people and we know that God can reach us beyond all the barriers the world can create.

Remember that we are a Pentecost people who know that the Holy Spirit can revive us and who will be our strength in times of great distress.

We can do this. We are the Church, the body of the risen Christ. As leaders called to serve you, we pledge to you that we will continue to draw on every resource available to us that will help you through this season.

In the love of our blessed Redeemer, we remain as always your humble servants and your beloved covenant partners."

More thoughtful than an email, more lasting than a phone call and further reaching than in-person conversation, letters were not just for Paul's time. They have the power to move and change us even today.

You can find the full text of this letter at: <https://www.ucc.org/news-commentary-a-pastoral-letter-in-a-time-of-pandemic-03262020>



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8 1/2" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE
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SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

Oct.11th, 2020

Exodus 32:1-14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."

Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD."

They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel. The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have

worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'"

The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Philippians 4:1-9

"Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you."

Matthew 22:1 - 14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding

banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”