

# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,  
October 30,  
2022  
10:00 AM**

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**Twenty-first Sunday  
after Pentecost**

**Reformation Sunday**



AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION IN SKOKIE, IL





# Welcome to Worship!

**SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM**

**In-person Worship.** Following COVID safety protocols

**Livestream on YouTube.** Live at 10am then available on our channel



**"The Redheaded Preacher" Podcast.** On Soundcloud, includes sermon and scriptures only, posted weekly by Tuesday



## Ways to Give

**Text Your Gift.** 844-997-2346 Super easy after a first-time setup

**PayPal.** [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/?x=1&from=seller=&to=buyer=&source=paypal) Uncheck the "Paying for Goods or Services" box to not pass on the fees to St Peter's

**Check or Cash.** Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine

**Vanco GivePlus App.** Contact the church office to set up regular giving



## Open Communion

**All Christians** and seekers after God are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper with us the **first Sunday of every month** and special Holy Days (Christmas, Maundy Thursday, and Easter). **At-home Communion** participants are invited to provide their own elements and join when Pastor bids you, "take, eat, and drink."



## About St. Peter's UCC

We've been in the heart of downtown Skokie since 1867. 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 invite all people to share worship, membership, marriage, baptism, funeral, and fellowship with us.



## Contact, Follow, or Talk to Us

**Rev. Richard Lanford (Pastor):** [revlanford@gmail.com](mailto:revlanford@gmail.com)

In the office Wed-Sat (times vary) and Sundays

**Laura Olson (Office Manager):** [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org)

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

**Ben Westphal (Music Director):** [bcwestphal@gmail.com](mailto:bcwestphal@gmail.com)

**Facebook/Instagram/YouTube:** [stpeteruccskokie](https://www.facebook.com/stpeteruccskokie)

**Website:** [www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://www.stpeteruccskokie.org)

*Like, follow, or join our email list for up-to-date info about events and activities!*



**8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077 | 847-673-8166**

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie**  
**Order of Worship for**  
**Sunday, October 30, 2022 at 10:00am**  
**Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost**

*Welcome to worship. The music before the service is intended as a time of silent prayer and preparation.*

**PRELUDE** "A Mighty Fortress" arr. Callahan

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS** Jenn Schneider

*Those who are able please stand*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: We come to be cleansed by the water of life.

**C: God adopts us as children of God.**

P: We come as sinners redeemed.

**C: In thanksgiving for God's grace bestowed upon us.**

P: We come as a community of love

**C: Surrounding and blessing the newly baptized from this day forward. Let us worship God!**

**RESPONSE** "Awesome God" SSB #21

Our God is an awe - some God, he  
 reigns from heav - en a - bove with wis - dom,  
 pow'r, and love— our God is an awe - some God!  
 Our God is an awe - some God! Our God is an awe - some God!

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**P:** Our festivals and solemn assemblies are offensive to God, Scripture says, when we come with hardened hearts and with blood on our hands. God will not listen to the words of our prayers when our hearts are not attuned to the Spirit. God's welcome is for those who are penitent, who return to God out of their need for God.

**C:** **Let us then so come!**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**A:** **All-knowing God, we confess our participation in the hatred and evil that is consuming this planet, indirectly at least. We gladly accept for ourselves the power and advantages that come our way. We seldom consider the cost to others of our prosperity. We tolerate poverty, hunger, and homelessness for people we do not know. We think that our small efforts too insignificant to make a difference. Wash away, O Lord, the evil that paralyzes us, that we may become rescuers of the oppressed and seekers after justice and shalom. Create in us a right spirit that prompts us to live by faith, and to dare great things for You. In the name of Jesus we pray for Your forgiveness and a new start! Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *2nd Thessalonians 1:2*

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." So wrote Paul to one of his churches. Grace is the unmerited favor and love of God, embodied by Jesus of Nazareth throughout his life, and particularly his passion and death, by which we are forgiven and saved. Paul wishes grace to Christ's followers, a grace which has already taken place in Christ crucified and risen, a grace we still need and a grace which still changes our lives and how we treat other people.

In this grace our sins are forgiven and the new life within and without begins!

In claiming this great good news, let the congregation join me in saying . . .

**A: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

## HYMN

## "Gather Us In"

SSB #19



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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*The congregation may be seated*

## **WORDS ABOUT OFFERING**

### **BIBLE PRESENTATION**

*Our tradition within the St. Peter's Board of Christian Education is to present to its 3rd graders their own copy of the Bible, with anticipation for its use between today and throughout, at least, Confirmation and beyond! Receiving his Bible today is Felix Roy Svenson.*

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Judy Paige

Psalter:

Psalm 32:1-7

Epistle:

2nd Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

### **MUSICAL MEDITATION "A Mighty Fortress"**

arr. Brickman

### **GOSPEL**

Luke 17:20-21

### **RESPONSE**

"Alleluia"

#495

### **THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

*Baptized today is Russell Nicholas Paluck, born March 4th of this year. The sponsors are Oksana Chernykhivska and Nicholas Paluck. The congregation is participating in this covenant and sacrament, so please participate aloud as indicated below.*

### **WELCOME**

P: They were bringing children to Jesus that He might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, He was indignant and said to them,

**C: 'Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall never enter it.'**

P: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying His hands upon them.

**ADDRESS**

P: (the address ends with the words . . . ) Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

**C: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's Body.**

**QUESTIONS TO THE PARENTS AND SPONSORS****Congregational Covenant**

P: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament promise your love, support and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

**C: We promise our love, support, and care.**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

P: Let us unite with the Church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the Triune God. Do you believe in God?

**C: I believe in God.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**C: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

**PRAYER OF BAPTISM AND OVER THE WATER****THE BAPTISM AND BLESSING****INTRODUCTION TO THE CONGREGATION****THE PRONOUNCEMENT**

P: We have all entered into a holy covenant this day. May God grant us the grace to keep it. Go in the peace of Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*Will those who are able please rise to sing*

**HYMN:** "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

1 Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap-tized with the Spir-it's sign;  
 2 Child of love, our love's ex-pres-sion, love's cre-a-tion, loved in-deed!  
 3 Child of joy, our dear-est trea-sure, God's you are, from God you came.  
 4 Child of God your lov-ing Par-ent, learn to know whose child you are.

With this wa-ter God has sealed you un-to love and grace di-vine.  
 Fresh from God, re-fresh our spir-its, in-to joy and laugh-ter lead.  
 Back to God we hum-bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.  
 Grow to laugh and sing and wor-ship, trust and love God more than all.

*The congregation may retake their seats*

**PASTORAL PRAYERS & SILENT PRAYERS**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

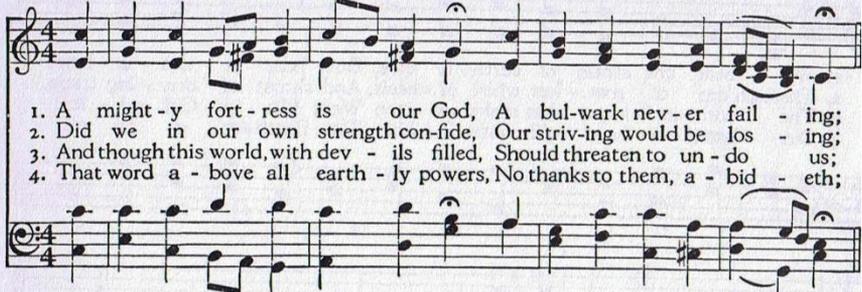
**A: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
 Hallowed be Thy name.  
 Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
 on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread,  
 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
 And lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil;  
 For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
 and the glory forever. Amen**

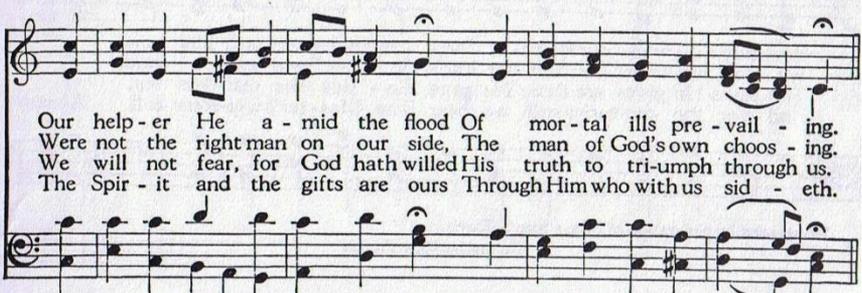
**HOMILY** "Baptisms and Bibles: Grace, Faith, Love"

*Will those who are able please rise to sing*

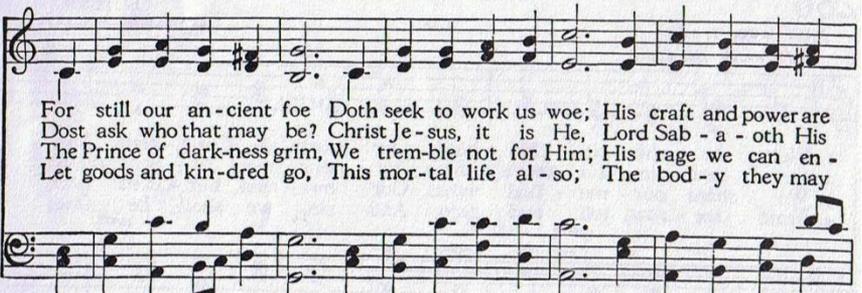
**HYMN: "A Mighty Fortress"**

**#281**

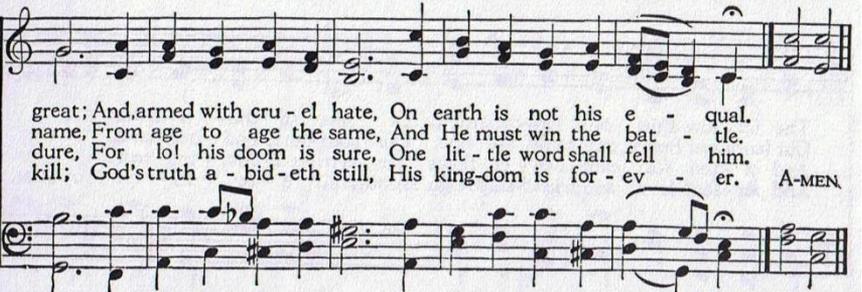
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1. A might - y fort - ress is our God, A bul - wark nev - er fail - ing;
  2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, Our striv - ing would be los - ing;
  3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, Should threaten to un - do us;
  4. That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, No thanks to them, a - bid - eth;



Our help - er He a - mid the flood Of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.  
 Were not the right man on our side, The man of God's own choos - ing.  
 We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri - umph through us.  
 The Spir - it and the gifts are ours Through Him who with us sid - eth.



For still our an - cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are  
 Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is He, Lord Sab - a - oth His  
 The Prince of dark - ness grim, We trem - ble not for Him; His rage we can en -  
 Let goods and kin - dred go, This mor - tal life al - so; The bod - y they may



great; And, armed with cru - el hate, On earth is not his e - qual.  
 name, From age to age the same, And He must win the bat - tle.  
 dure, For lo! his doom is sure, One lit - tle word shall fell him.  
 kill; God's truth a - bid - eth still, His king - dom is for - ev - er. A - MEN.

**CHARGE**

P: Go in peace,

**WOMEN: Keep the faith,**

**MEN: Love one another,**

**A: Serve the Lord!**

**BENEDICTION** *2nd Corinthians 13:13*

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. Amen.

**C: Amen!**

**POSTLUDE**

"A Mighty Fortress"

arr. Metzinger

*The music after the service is intended as a time of reflection. Pastor will be pleased to greet you at the Sanctuary doors as soon as the postlude has concluded, and our livestream has stopped.*

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**FOR WORSHIP TODAY**

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MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Barb Bailey
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Lanford
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Heidi Tarzian

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# News in the Pews

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**Good Morning!** Welcome to worship, Christian education and fellowship as we gather in the name of our Savior and as his body united in love. Amen.

**We warmly welcome Andy and Melissa (Erickson) Paluck** and their sons Clayton and the son whose baptism is today, Russell!

**Welcome back to our Music Director Ben Westphal,** married a week ago yesterday!

**Collecting for the Holiday Meals program at the Jewel in the Village Crossing Shopping Center is ON!** Its so important to get there NOW and donate so we have enough dinners to supply the families at District 69's low income families, Pastor Cranford's ministries as well as our own that come to our doors. The Jewel program cuts off donations for Thanksgiving meals about 2 weeks before Thanksgiving (to order them) so its crucial to donate asap. Thanks so much for continuing to help keep this program alive!

**Wreath orders are due FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>** so get those in ASAP!

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**Advent devotional response needed!!** Those on our email list should have received a request to respond on your preference for Advent devotionals, either paper copies or digital. Please get those response in soon!  
**Our sincere thanks to everyone who participated in last Sunday's Pet Blessing,** especially its spear-headers Marcia Hilliard and Andre Gloeckner.

**Our Holiday Craft Show is Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 3 PM.** 42 vendors, baked goods and raffle baskets will be in store for you, lots of holiday gift ideas for those you love, including those 4-legged friends! Tell your friends and plan to join us!

**Pastor Richard will take an 11-day vacation starting next Sunday.** He will return to the study on Thursday, November 17th. In case of a need for pastoral services during that time, contact our church office, President, or Vice President, each of whom will have a list of clergy who told him they'd be available for this during his vacation.

**We still NEED Nursery Attendants!** Your service helps the parents get a much-needed break and the kids get to interact with others in the church they might not. Please consider helping, let the office know if you will!

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# Our People

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**Having birthdays this week** are Mark Aler and Brian Russell. Randy and Maria Altmayer's anniversary is this week as well. Blessings to them all!

**According to the Lector schedule**, next Sunday's lector is Olivia Altmayer, and the Nursery Attendant is Laurie Mitchell.

**Next Sunday, Nov 6th** we will have a Guest Preacher Rev. Carol Ann Munro! Then on Sunday the 13th, Rev. Tim Stevens will preach. He recently completed the interim pastorate at the First Congregational Church of Evanston (UCC). Please come if you can; its always nice to get a new/different perspective via sermon, and remember we come to worship God no matter if the preacher is the settled pastor or a Guest Preacher.

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## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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PRESIDENT	Jenn Schneider
VICE-PRESIDENT	Judy Paige
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Carolyn Kuechler
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

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## Regular Reminders!

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**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 the bulletin's front cover for details on how to donate.

**Donations always needed for our food pantry.** There's a list of items on the shelves outside the offices if you aren't sure what to buy. Items can be left on those same shelves under the stairs by the offices.

**Pastor's Podcast is now on all the Podcast platforms-** iTunes, Stitcher, Overcast, Spotify, Podcast Addict, Amazon Music and more. Just look up "The Redheaded Preacher" on your podcast catcher or music streaming service then hit subscribe and you'll get the newest editions weekly! You can also get it via the church's webpage link. Give us a 5-star rating and review if you can, it helps us grow so much.

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## **MISSION MOMENTS**

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**October 30, 2022**

**Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost**

**Luke 19:1-10**

**Transforming Love**

**Reformation Sunday**

**UCC Higher Education Sunday**

On this United Church of Christ Higher Education Sunday, we celebrate all the institutions of higher learning that claim historic or current affiliation with the UCC. Among those are several HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities). One of those HBCUs in New Orleans, Louisiana, is Dillard University.

Founded in 1935, Dillard is the result of the merger of two historically African American institutions. Immediately following Emancipation in the mid-1860's, the Methodist Episcopal Church founded Thompson Biblical Institute to train African American ministers. A few years later, the American Missionary Association of the Congregational Church established Straight University in New Orleans. Today, Dillard University is the result of that merger and is affiliated with both the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ.

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Dillard continues the training envisioned by its founding organizations so many years ago through Lawless Chapel Ministry's (LCM) "VisionQuest, a program that aids students in pursuing ordained, music and lay ministry, and helps students find the work, and the life, to which God has called them.

LCM and VisionQuest accomplish their purposes by offering a lively worship service in Lawless Chapel every Sunday while the University is in session. The style of worship represents an eclectic mix of the University's two affiliations (United Methodist and United Church of Christ) with a little bit of Baptist, and a measure of creative experimentation that reflects the cultural exuberance of the city of New Orleans. The VisionQuest Chorale and Liturgical Dancers and Mime Ministry provide the music and dance for worship--be it on campus, throughout New Orleans, or beyond the city."\*

You can find out more about Dillard, or the other HBCUs affiliated with the UCC by visiting online or in person:

- Dillard University, New Orleans, LA; [www.dillard.edu](http://www.dillard.edu)
- Fisk University, Nashville, TN; [www.fisk.edu](http://www.fisk.edu)
- Huston-Tillotson University, Austin, TX; [www.htu.edu](http://www.htu.edu)
- LeMoyne-Owen College, Memphis, TN; [www.loc.edu](http://www.loc.edu)
- Talladega College, Talladega, AL; [www.talladega.edu](http://www.talladega.edu)
- Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, MS; [www.tougaloo.edu](http://www.tougaloo.edu)

\*[www.dillard.edu/chaplain](http://www.dillard.edu/chaplain)

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**Psalm 32:1-7**

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,

and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;

my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"

and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;

at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

You are a hiding place for me;

you preserve me from trouble;

you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

**2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12**

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right,

because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. Therefore, we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring.

To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Luke 17:20-21**

Once Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, "The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There it is!' For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you."