



# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,  
May 26, 2024  
10:00 AM**

---

**Trinity Sunday  
Memorial Day  
Sunday**



OPEN & AFFIRMING IN SKOKIE, IL



# Welcome to Worship!

**SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM**

**In-person Worship.** Masks and distance recommended, not required

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

**"The Redheaded Preacher" Podcast.** Available wherever you get your podcasts, includes sermon and scriptures only, posted weekly by Tuesday



## Ways to Give

**Text Your Gift.** Text your gift to [844-977-2346](tel:844-977-2346)

After a short set-up the first time, simply text your gift amount

**Use PayPal.** [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/display?host=stpeteruccskokie)

**Send a Check.** Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine

**Set up Vanco.** Contact the church office to enroll in 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 **joyously welcome 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, May 26, 2024 at 10:00am**  
**Trinity Sunday/Memorial Day Sunday**

---

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

**PRELUDE**      "I Vow to Thee, My Country"      by Holst

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

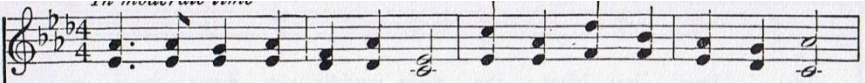
Peggy Reins

*Will those who are able please stand up*

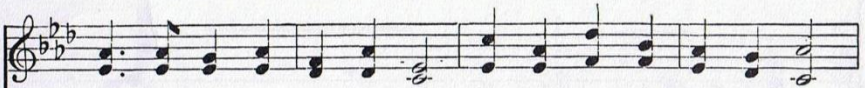
**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Our Call to Worship this morning is two verses of a hymn!*

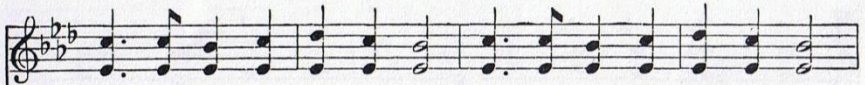
# HYMN "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord" #198 (vv. 1, 2)



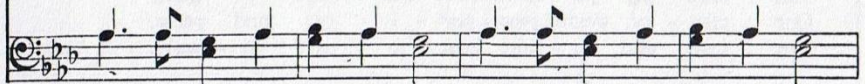
1. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of Hosts, when heaven and earth  
 2. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Thee, One Je - ho - vah ev - er - more,  
 3. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! All Heaven's tri - um - phant choir shall sing,



Out of dark - ness, at Thy word, Is - sued in - to glo - rious birth,  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, we, Dust and ash - es, would a - dore:  
 While the ran - somed na - tions fall At the foot - stool of their King:



All Thy works be - fore Thee stood, And Thine eyes be - held them good,  
 Light - ly by the world es - teemed, From that world by Thee re - deemed,  
 Then shall saints and ser - a - phim, Harps and voic - es swell one hymn,



While they sang with sweet ac - cord, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord!  
 Sing we here with glad ac - cord, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord!  
 Blend - ing in sub - lime ac - cord, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord! A - MEN.



## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: Our Triune God is holy, but deep down you and I are well aware that we are not. Coming before the majesty and mystery of the Lord of hosts, let us come clean with our God, that our pure worship may freely continue.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P: God of all worlds, we confess that we are too much people of the flesh, living in slavery to our possessions and our fears. We are so attached to our little corner of the world that we find it difficult to identify with people whose experience is far different from our own.

**C: We do not want to suffer with the homeless, the hungry, the migrant, the refugees, the oppressed. We turn away from the suffering of Jesus to pursue temporary advantages.**

**A: We act like other human organizations, not the Body of Christ making a difference in the world. O God, forgive us and reclaim us as Your children. In Christ's matchless name we pray. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

P: Invoking Jeremiah 31, the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews said, “For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more” (8:12). This was the new covenant which Jesus instituted by His death on the cross and sealed at the Last Supper. People remember being taught about an angry, vengeful God, but God, who is just, is also full of steadfast love and abundant mercy. Jesus came to prove that to us and to embody it in His life, death and resurrection. Our God is a forgiving God, and through the Son our sins are washed away. Let the congregation join me in acclaiming this priceless grace by saying . . .

**A: Alleluia! Amen!**

HYMN

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

#1 (vv 1, 2, 4)

1. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!  
 2. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! all the saints a - dore Thee,  
 3. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide Thee,  
 4. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee:  
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
 Though the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not see,  
 All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea;

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,  
 On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee,  
 Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in Three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
 Who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.  
 Per - fect in power, in love, and pu - ri - ty.  
 God in Three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty! A-MEN.

*The congregation may be seated*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Rich Schneider

The Prophet:

Isaiah 6:1-8

The Epistle:

Romans 8:12-17

**MUSICAL MEDITATION "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"**

Traditional

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**THE GOSPEL**

John 3:1-17; 15:12-17

**RESPONSE**

"Alleluia!"

#495

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** The United Church of Christ  
Statement of Faith In the form of a Doxology

**A: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,  
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,  
and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being,  
create persons in your own image,  
and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

**You seek in holy love to save all people from  
aimlessness and sin.**

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will  
declared through prophets and apostles.**



**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,  
you have come to us  
and shared our common lot,  
conquering sin and death  
and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,  
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,  
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,  
tongues, and races.**

**You call us into your church  
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,  
to be your servants in the service of others,  
to proclaim the gospel to all the world  
and resist the powers of evil,  
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,  
to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you  
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,  
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,  
your presence in trial and rejoicing,  
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

**Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.  
Amen.**

**RESPONSE**

"Gloria Creator"

Tune 493

**A: Glory to the Creator****And to the Christ****And to the Holy Ghost!****As it was in the beginning,****Is now, and ever shall be:****World without end. Amen, amen.***The Congregation may be seated***PASTORAL AND 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.****OFFERTORY***If you donate electronically, feel free to place a yellow "Electronic Giving" card into the plate as it comes around so you can enjoy participating in the physical act of giving.*

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**DOXOLOGY**

Tune #551

**A: Praise God from whom all blessings flow!**

**Praise God all creatures here below!**

**Praise God above, you heavenly host;**

**Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**P:** Receive our offering, God of glory, that our church may come alive afresh in the Spirit. May these gifts, and the way we live our lives each day, proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

**C:** **Strengthen us in our giving. Help us to be generous enough to experience the joy You find in showering us with more than we can ever give away.**

**A:** **Thank You for the gift of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated*

**SERMON**      “Spirit Received, Spirit-Led”

Will those who are able please stand up

**HYMN**

**"America the Beautiful"**

**#443**

1. O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, For am - ber waves of grain,  
 2. O beau - ti - ful for pil - grim feet, Whose stern, im - pas - sioned stress  
 3. O beau - ti - ful for he - roes, proved In lib - er - at - ing strife,  
 4. O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream That sees be - yond the years

For pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties A - bove the fruit - ed plain!  
 A thor - ough - fare for free - dom beat A - cross the wil - der - ness!  
 Who more than self their coun - try loved, And mer - cy more than life!  
 Thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam Un - dimmed by hu - mar: tears!

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed His grace on thee,  
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,  
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,  
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed His grace on thee,

And crown thy good with broth - er - hood From sea to shin - ing sea!  
 Con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, Thy lib - er - ty in law!  
 Till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, And ev - ery gain di - vine!  
 And crown thy good with broth - er - hood From sea to shin - ing sea! A - MEN.

---

## CHARGE & BENEDICTION

P: In the name of the Father, go in faith in the depths of ancient wisdom, in a salvation wrought before the world began.

**C: In the name of the Son, go in faith and grace, trusting and loving him who touched the leper and who gave the blind sight.**

P: In the name of the Spirit, go in peace, knowing that the Spirit has been given to us as a deposit, a promise of the salvation that is now and that is also to come. In the name of God, go in the mystery of the Three-in-One and One-in-Three.

**POSTLUDE**                      "National Hymn"                      arr. Lehenbauer

*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.*

---

## FOR WORSHIP TODAY

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

---

Please join us for a

# *Retirement Dinner*

honoring

Rev. Richard and Mrs. Beth Lanford

*Sunday, June 30th at 5pm*

RSVP via Evite email sent out on 5/23,

OR use this link or scan the code:

<http://evite.me/Lanford-Retirement-Dinner>



*There is no charge for this banquet but "free will" donations will be gladly accepted to help cover costs.*

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY RESPONDED,  
thank you! No need to do it again!

**RSVPs DUE BY JUNE 15th**

See Evite or Church Website for more info.

# *Share your memories ...*

We are asking all of you to submit a short video with a wish, a memory, a word of advice - whatever you feel like sharing to honor Pastor Richard and Beth.

Click this link or scan the code and follow the directions - its very easy, we promise!

<https://share.vidday.com/e/r-9e8xdn>



**Scan me! Pastor's Video**

**VIDEO SUBMISSIONS ARE  
DUE BY JUNE 23rd**

---

# News in the Pews

---

**Welcome to worship on Holy Trinity Sunday — in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Please plan to say for a “Fourth Sunday Conversation” coffee hour after worship.** This month we will be considering this question: "Can we think about change as an opportunity? If so, what opportunities do you see?" We want to hear from you! Please plan to join us for just a little bit of time after worship.

**Thanks to all the volunteers** who served in the various ministries of the church this morning – ministries of worship, administration and hospitality!

**Thanks to the Good Good-bye Committee** and everyone who donated food or drink, raffle items, bought raffle tickets, attended, or otherwise supported last Sunday night's Spaghetti Dinner 'Roast & Toast' of Pastor Richard! This includes any former Youth Fellowship members who came.

**UNDY 500 THANKS** to everyone who remembered to donate to St. Peter's 2024 UNDY 500 collection of underwear for the clients of the Night Ministry! Thanks to Maria Altmayer for heading it up as a member of the Micah 6:8 Committee.

**June PRIDE Events!!!** We'll be participating in the Niles Pride Walk on June 8<sup>th</sup> at 11AM at Kirk Lane Park and our Ben will be a speaker! Also, we'll be participating in Skokie Pride (we

---



---

have a booth) on June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1-4PM at Oakton Park. We'd love volunteers for Skokie Pride to help meet the community, even 1-hour slots would be so helpful!

**St. Peter's UCC Gear** – We'd like to encourage you to get some St. Peter's UCC wear to help folks identify you as you attend some or all of these events (or other things) this summer and beyond. Check it out here: <https://stpeters.qbstores.com/home> and get yourself some St. Peter's UCC gear!!

**One Last Goodbye- June 30<sup>th</sup> at 5PM.** This event is our chance to say a final "good goodbye" to both Pastor Richard and Beth. There will be special guests at this catered dinner, including Lanford family members, clergy friends, Skokie friends, and of course, members and friends of St. Peter's UCC. We'll break bread, give gifts, and share memories together. There is no charge for this banquet but "free will" donations will be gladly accepted to help cover costs. See insert for more details.

**Next Sunday, June 2nd, Evanston is having its first Interfaith Family Pride Fest** at Raymond Park 1445 Hinman Avenue). It goes from 2 to 5 PM and features the Artemis Singers, the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus, and Youth Showcase and Actors Gymnasium. Our Church is not taking part but is letting people know about it!

This morning's Prayer of Confession and Prayer of Dedication are reprinted by permission of United Church Press from *Led by Love* by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1996 by United Church Press.

---

---

## Our People

---

**Jane Abramchik remains at the McGaw Care Center / Frank Murdough Pavilion, 3200 Grant Street, Room 333, Evanston, IL, 60201. Dorene Schurman remains in hospice care in Ohio. Please keep them in your prayers.**

**Pastor and Beth want to thank everyone, especially the Good Good-bye Committee, for the Fantastic Evening and Dinner last Sunday night! It was truly a magnificent event with memories to last a lifetime, and we are very, very grateful to all who made it happen and all who came! Thank you also for the gifts we received!**

**The Good Goodbye Committee meets Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:15am.**

**Annie's mother-in-law Marylou Noorts left this life on early in the morning, May 15th. There will be a period of visitation at Simkins Funeral Home on Dempster today from 3:30 to 4:30 PM, with the memorial service beginning at 4:30 PM.**

**Having birthdays this week are** recent baptizees Braxton Meggs and Finch Bernat, Heather O'Hara, Melissa Erickson Paluck, Jack Hoellerich, and Barb Bailey! Don and Lana Kahn mark their wedding anniversary on June 1st.

**According to the schedule, next Sunday's lector is Annie Noorts, and Carolyn Van Til is the Nursery Attendant.**

Next Sunday we celebrate Holy Communion.

---

---

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

---

PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Beth Lanford
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Annie Noorts
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

---

## *Regular Reminders!*

---

**Let us know you were here!** Please sign the attendance sheet in the black pew pads and when you think your pew is ready, please pass the pad towards the center aisle of the church.

**Pastor's podcast is available wherever you listen to podcasts!** Just type in "The Redheaded Preacher" in your podcatcher's search engine and you'll find us!

**Pantry Donations** – while we still have a lot left from our Jewel Foods donation, we can always use more donations! They can be left on the shelves near the staircase by the office doors on Laramie Ave.

---



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

## MISSION MOMENTS

---

**May 26, 2024**

**Trinity Sunday (1st Sunday after Pentecost)**

**“Mysterious Encounter”**

**John 3:1–17**

Maybe you don't think of friendship all that often, but friendship is a truly radical act. Friendship has no real purpose. Friends choose each other, without blood ties, without, as the scientists say, “the imperative of procreation,” often outside the bounds of geography. And yet even though friendship has a sort of ambiguous status in our culture (we both diminish the relationship of friendship “it's nothing serious: they're just friends” and uphold it, as in “he has many acquaintances, but few friends”), most of us seem to yearn for it.

Theologian Sallie McFague says of the relationships in our lives: “one does not choose one's parents, and even falling in love seems to have a kind of destiny about it, but friends choose to be together...your mother desires your existence, and your lover finds you valuable, but your friend **LIKES** you!”

---

---

But don't confuse LIKE with ALIKE. Because the alchemy that brews the mysterious metal of individuals into the pure gold of real friendship is not necessarily commonality. It's not necessarily about looking at each other, so much as it's about looking ahead in the same direction. A lot of times, it's having a task or goal that you can work on together that helps cement a friendship bond – the mission project, the facilities work day, the book club.

Trinity Sunday is today. It is one day when we pause to marvel that our God is both One and Three. It is one day to remind ourselves that our God is a God of relationship, of friendship that creates and flourishes in a dance of delight and Divine love.

What if it's on purpose that everything was created out of this Holy Love Dance? What if how God is created – three, one, whirling, creating, loving - is part of the plan of things? What if friendship is how it all started, how it all is sustained? What if friendship (that ambiguous but somehow important word) is what God wants of us, what God has called us here for now? What if God has that radical friendship love for us, has had it since the beginning?

Look around you. Perhaps you are sitting with friends right now. How do these friends show you more about God's work in the world?

---

**Isaiah 6:1 - 8**

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

<sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!” <sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

**Romans 8:12 – 17**

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— <sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very

Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

### **John 3:1 - 17**

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses

lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”

<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

***John Chapter 15, verses 12 through 17:***

Jesus said to the disciples, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”