



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday,

June 9, 2024

10:00 AM

**Third Sunday after
Pentecost**





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/x-cmd=showitem&item=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

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

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

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

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

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

Website: 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, June 9, 2024 at 10:00am
Third Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE "Wade in the Water" arr. Thompson

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS Beth Lanford

Will those who are able please stand up

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: God calls us into covenant this day.

C: We rejoice in the God of faithfulness.

P: Some are coming to enter the covenant with us.

C: We give thanks for their faith in God.

P: We all are invited to renew our commitment to God.

C: With joy, we pledge anew our lives to God in Christ Jesus.

P: Let the water be a sign of our covenant.

C: Let it refresh us and bring us new life. Let us praise the Triune God!

RESPONSE “Wade in the Water”

Spiritual

Refrain:

**Wade in the water / wade in the water, children;
Wade in the water / God’s gonna trouble the water,
God’s gonna trouble the water!**

**Verse: See that band all dressed in red / God’s gonna
trouble the water.**

**Looks like the band that Moses led / God’s gonna
trouble the water!**

Refrain and end.

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: The proof of God’s amazing love is this: that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.

C: **Because we believe this, let us approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, asking God to hear our prayers of confession and to forgive us.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: Merciful and mysterious God, as we worship You in the hour of baptism, most of us cannot remember our baptism, but we know we were placed in the covenant of belonging to Christ Jesus, the Lover of our souls, our Lord and Savior. But as we grew, sometimes the faith felt distant, and sometimes we resisted the fellowship of the church. We tried other lords, other saviors, others to belong to above You. We tried to find our strength in ourselves, only to falter as people do.

We confess all this and ask Your forgiveness, for here we are, calling on Your name and soon praying for Your will to be done. Heal us where we are spiritually in need of mending; reorder our priorities; point us the way to lasting joy; receive us in Your inestimable grace and lead us in the paths of Jesus, in whose name we gladly pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Acts 2:37-39*

P: After his Pentecost sermon, “Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what should we do?’ Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.”

When you and I return to God and put down our self-seeking, God receives us with love and mercy. God gives us the Holy Spirit, who is God’s own Self. Our sins are forgiven, and the power to live lives of love and forgiveness towards others is given to us! God is worthy of our praise; let us do so together before we sing, and so say together . . .

A: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen!

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 cat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-cr, 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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Barb Todd

Old Testament:

Psalm 138

Epistle:

Philippians 1:3-11

MUSICAL MEDITATION “Peace Like A River” arr. Kim

Will those who are able please stand up

THE GOSPEL

Mark 4: 30-34

RESPONSE “Alleluia!” #495

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Today we celebrate the baptism of Skye Danielle Christianson, daughter of Britta Christianson. Standing as proxy sponsors are Rich and Jane Christianson, Britta's uncle and aunt, standing and speaking in place of the sponsors Andy and Melissa Paluck. They are out of the country and are unable to be here. The congregation joins in this covenant and sacrament as the bulletin shows.

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

The address ends with the Pastor saying, “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 she 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.

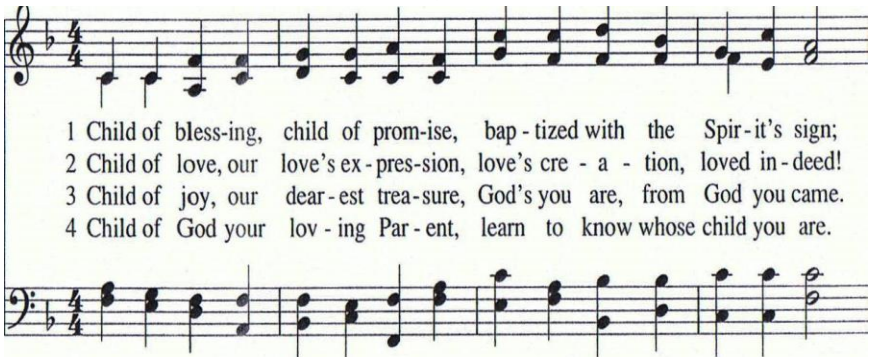
PRAYER OF BAPTISM
THE BAPTISM AND BLESSING
INTRODUCTION TO THE CONGREGATION
THE PRONOUNCEMENT

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



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 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.

The congregation may be seated

HOMILY "Purposes Begun, Purposes Fulfilling"

Will those who are able please stand up

HYMN “We Enter Your Church, Lord”

Sing to the tune “Away in a Manger”

**We enter your church, Lord, through welcoming doors.
We enter it, too, where you claim us as yours.
It's here at the font that you offer a sign:
You tell us, "My children, you're baptized! You're
mine!"**

**O God, you have called us, inviting us in;
You've made us your household and freed us from sin.
From youngest to oldest, we find in this place
Your waters of welcome, your family, your grace.**

**We've heard here your welcome, and also your call;
Your Spirit inspires us to share Christ with all.
The life we receive here is life we can share;
We'll carry your message of love everywhere.**

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Included in Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Upper Room
Books, 2009) which includes a permission note for those who own this book (like
Rev. Lanford) to use this hymn in their local church's worship services.*

CHARGE

P: God has called us as disciples to go forth and transform the world.

C: May our baptisms be fulfilled as we move from this space into to the mission fields of our lives.

BENEDICTION

P: May the blessings of baptism – cleansing, forgiveness, healing, grace, eternal life, incorporation into Jesus Christ – be yours again this day, and forever. Go, and may the peace of God go with you.

C: Amen.

POSTLUDE “Wade in the Water” Traditional Spiritual

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	Beth Sterba
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Jenn Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Rita McMahon

History of the LGBTQIA+ Acronym

Where a variety of orientations and identities had previously been referred to as "the gay community" and later "the gay and lesbian community," the acronym eventually evolved as a way to be more inclusive of other identities.

Why has the acronym changed over time? One important thing to remember is that words and meanings are always evolving. Bisexual, as defined by Sigmund Freud, originally meant a person was both a man and a woman. Being both a man and a woman is now referred to as bigender (under the transgender umbrella), and bisexuality is attraction to multiple/all genders.

The original acronym has gained more letters designed to help better represent other identities related to sexual orientation and gender identity.

Why the "Plus" Matters

While variations such as LGBT or LGBTQ are often used, many advocates argue that the addition of the "plus" is important and should not be overlooked. The purpose of the acronym is to represent the tremendous diversity of people who are same/similar gender attracted and transgender. The addition of the plus is better able to fully capture that diversity.

"Coverage of LGBTQ issues has moved beyond simplistic political dichotomies and toward more fully realized representations, not only of the diversity of the LGBTQ community, but also of LGBTQ people's lives, their families, and their fundamental inclusion in the fabric of American society," explains GLAAD, or the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

Related Terms to Know

Some other terms that you may see or hear related to the LGBTQIA+ community include:

- **Cisgender:** This term refers to individuals whose gender identity corresponds to the gender associated with the sex they were assigned at birth.
- **Nonbinary:** A person whose gender identity is neither exclusively woman or man.
- **Gender nonconforming:** An individual whose gender identity or expression is outside or beyond the traditional masculine/feminine and woman/man norms.

A person's gender identity is their internal sense of gender, whether that is woman, man, or a nonbinary gender. A person's gender identity does not necessarily correspond to their sex assigned at birth or with their gender expression.

It is also important to understand that gender is not the same as sex. Sex is biological, while gender is influenced by social, cultural, and environmental factors.

LGBTQIA+ Resources

If you are interested in learning about LGBTQIA+ issues, there are a number of resources available that can help.

- [The Trevor Project](#)
- [Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network \(GLSEN\)](#)
- [National Center for Transgender Equality \(NCTE\)](#)

The goal of using more inclusive terms like LGBTQIA+ is to improve visibility, recognition, and acceptance. It is important to remember that LGBTQIA+ people continue to face discrimination. Transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals, in particular, are frequently the target of social and economic marginalization as well as harassment and violence.

Terms and definitions are always evolving. When it comes to something as personal as sexuality and gender identity, these terms and definitions can mean different things to different people. While working to understand and use terms such as LGBTQIA+ can help increase the visibility of people who have faced marginalization and discrimination, it is important to remember that the most important labels or definitions are the ones that people give to themselves.

If you are seeking support for issues with coming out, relationships, bullying, self-harm, and more, contact the [LGBT National Hotline](#) at **1-888-843-4564** for one-to-one peer support.

For more mental health resources, see our [National Helpline Database](#).

Verywell Mind uses only high-quality sources, including peer-reviewed studies, to support the facts within our articles. Read our [editorial process](#) to learn more about how we fact-check and keep our content accurate, reliable, and trustworthy.

1. Intersex Society of North America. [What Is Intersex?](#)
2. Gold M. [The ABCs of L.G.B.T.Q.I.A.+](#). *The New York Times*.
3. GLAAD. [Media reference guide](#).
4. Clayton JA, Tannenbaum C. [Reporting sex, gender, or both in clinical research?](#) *JAMA*. 2016;316(18):1863–1864. doi:10.1001/jama.2016.16405
5. Hadland SE, Yehia BR, Makadon HJ. [Caring for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth in inclusive and affirmative environments](#). *Pediatr Clin North Am*. 2016;63(6):955-969. doi:10.1016/j.pcl.2016.07.001
6. Higa D, Hoppe MJ, Lindhorst T, et al. [Negative and positive factors associated with the well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning \(LGBTQ\) youth](#). *Youth Soc*. 2014;46(5):663-687. doi:10.1177/0044118X12449630
7. GLAAD. [Where are we on TV report - 2019](#).
8. OECD. [The LGBT challenge: How to better include sexual and gender minorities?](#) *Society at a Glance 2019: OECD Social Indicators*, OECD Publishing, Paris. 2019. doi:10.1787/c64c3d3f-en
9. Stotzer RL. [Data sources hinder our understanding of transgender murders](#). *Am J Public Health*. 2017;107(9):1362-1363. doi:10.2105/AJPH.2017.303973

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.

NEW! We had an error with the previous QR Code. PLEASE USE THIS ONE!

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

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



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

News in the Pews

Welcome to worship and fellowship as the family of God this day. Your presence adds joy to our gathering.

A special welcome to Skye and Britta Christianson, the baptismal sponsors, and all family members and friends here for the baptism! We're glad you're here!

Thanks to all who joined yesterday in the Niles Rainbow Pride Walk! Supporting this with our presence is part of this church's participation in Pride Week in our local areas. Our Skokie Pride Event is Sunday, June 23rd, from 1 to 4 PM at Oakton Park. (borrow from previous announcement promoting this for text).

The Women's Guild has its end-of-program-year meeting and picnic this coming Wednesday, June 12th, at the home of Jim and Barb Todd, starting at 11:30 AM. All ladies are automatically members of the Guild and are welcome to participate! This meeting will have Pastor Richard and Beth as special guests.

Preparations for the Retirement party will be Saturday, June 22th from 10:00AM – 2:00PM to set up, decorate, clean and get our church into the best shape possible. Much help needed, please come!

Calling all bakers - As a part of the retirement banquet on June 30th for Pastor and Beth, we are asking our wonderful crew of bakers to pull out their spatulas and turn on their ovens to send Pastor and Beth off with bellies full of wonderful memories,

and lots of great sweets. We're looking for finger foods, cookies, bars, cupcakes, etc. No big cakes or pies.

Please help with the Retirement Video! David Iannotti is putting together a special video for Pastor and Beth and needs your help. 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 these two wonderful people and their 32 years at St. Peter's. This is VERY easy to do. Just click the link below or scan the QR code with your phone. This will take you directly to the site and walk you through doing the video. Link: <https://share.vidday.com/e/r-9e8xdn>

The deadline for reservations for the farewell dinner for Beth and Pastor Lanford is at the end of this week! If you are planning to attend, please let us know.

Lanford Celebration Fund - This fund is growing, thanks to your donations and the support of the Spaghetti dinner raffle. But we do not yet have enough to cover the full cost of the banquet. If you would haven't had to chance to donate yet, (and would like to), just be sure you note on your check or envelope that the funds should be directed to the "Lanford Fund." Donations can be put in with offering during a service or mailed into the church.

June PRIDE Events continue... We'll be participating in Skokie Pride (we have a booth) on June 23rd 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!

Our People

Having birthdays or anniversaries this week are Laura Olson's son Jimmy Olson, Ginger Kalensky, and a son of one of our former members, Aiden Caras. Cristy and Louie Lopez and David and Karem Iannotti celebrate anniversaries. May they all enjoy their days of celebration!

HOSPITALIZED - Jane Abramchik is still at the McGaw Care Center, Frank Murdough Pavilion, 3200 Grant Street, Rm. 333, Evanston 60201.

Your Church Council meets next Sunday after worship. If you are responsible for a report, please complete it and submit it to the Drop Box for Council / June as soon as you are able. Thank you!

A week from tomorrow, Monday, June 17th, is the deadline for articles for the July Announcer.

According to the schedule, next Sunday's Lector is Beth Lanford, and the Nursery attendant will be Annie N.

Next Sunday our worship service will incorporate a Service of Healing from the Book of Worship of our United Church of Christ. This has always been a popular service and Pastor Richard thought to have it one more time before ending his ministry here.

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 – our Jewel Foods donations are starting to dwindle - 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

June 9, 2024

Third Sunday after Pentecost

“God’s Will”

Mark 3:20-35

Jesus is teaching and preaching, telling stories, and inviting listeners to a new way of life. In the midst of the teaching, someone brings word that his mother, and his brothers are waiting outside.

Jesus responds to their presence with what seems like uncharacteristic harshness. “Who are my brothers and mother?” he asks, looking around at the gathered crowd. And he answers himself. It is not Mary and her sons who are his family, but his gathered family and friends.

It may be the first, but it certainly is not the last time that Christ followers are referred to as a family. Many congregations consider one another a family. Is your congregation one of these? What are

some of the pitfalls and positives of calling your congregation a family?

First of all, consider the positives. A family at its best is a place of sanctuary, growth, humor, help, joy in its season, and a willingness to weep when grief comes. Some people find such a place in their families of origin. Others find this sanctuary in found families created in adulthood, including church congregations.

What about the pitfalls? Well, it can be difficult to enter a family with its many customs, rituals, inside jokes, and ideas that may take years for outsiders to understand. And, while healthy families are sanctuaries, families that are unhealthy can be containers for toxic secrets and even abuse. Third, the very intimacy that creates a sense of deep belonging in families can also create a sense of being suffocated or constrained into a particular role.

If your church community considers itself a family, this may be a good Sunday for conversation about what that might mean for you. What are the positives of you considering yourself a family? What are the challenges? What are the ways that you can nurture the intimacy of family and still be open and welcoming to outsiders?

Psalm 138

I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD,

for they have heard the words of your mouth.

They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;

you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.

Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Mark 4:30-34

Jesus also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.