

Finding True Joy

A GRACE-FILLED LIFE FROM THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS



Week 1

Sunday 3 August 2025

Our 9:30am service is live streamed to our YouTube and Facebook Channels.

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Interview & Baptism
- Song
- Bible Reading: Philippians 1:1-11 (p. 1178)
- Sermon
- Confession & Assurance
- Prayers
- Vision Spot
- Song
- Conclusion

Most St Stephen's collection is received electronically.
BSB: 062 272
Account Number: 00490436

If you are a visitor please don't feel obliged to contribute financially.

Welcome to church this morning—especially if you're new or visiting. We're so glad you're here! We're a church that wants to be **made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ**—and today is a wonderful example of that vision in action.



This morning we have the joy of witnessing Korelle's baptism. It's a powerful picture of what Jesus has done for us and the new life we share in him.

We're also beginning a new sermon series in the book of Philippians. It's a letter that shows how the gospel doesn't just change individuals—it creates a whole new kind of community, full of joy, unity and love.

Whether you're exploring faith, returning to church, or have been following Jesus for years, we hope you're encouraged by what you see and hear today. We'd love to connect—just scan the QR code on the next page.

Next Steps

Are you new? We would love to meet you. Hear a brief intro on the life of our church at our next **Newish Morning Tea** on 31 August. It runs for ½ an hour straight after the service.

Been regularly coming? If you are a regular member of our church, we encourage you to attend our next **Belonging Course** which runs on 14 September from 12-3pm. Belonging is the gateway to our GaP Groups, serving and deeper connection with the community. Or if you'd like to learn more at another time, you can arrange a coffee with Jill. Simply reach out – she'd love to chat.

Prayers for the Service

These prayers are used during the service. Prayer is a privilege we are given because Christ died for us. His death & resurrection means we can confidently approach God seeking forgiveness (Hebrews 10:22). If you believe that Christ died to deal with your failings then you should be confident to pray with us. If you are still exploring who Christ is then feel free to listen in.

A Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed:
we have not loved you with our whole heart,
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves:
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us...and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

The Lord's Prayer

This is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray (Matthew 6:5-14).

Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done on earth as in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever
Amen.

Sermon Notes

The Community you need | Philippians 1:1-11

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. Breadth

2. Depth

3. Growth

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Discuss together

Before you became a Christian, what did you think it would look like to become the best or most 'complete' version of yourself?

Going deep in God's Word

Read Acts 16:6-40

1. Discuss the various people in Philippi transformed by the gospel here. How does that help us see what kind of church the Philippians would've been?

Read Philippians 1:1-11

2. List all the instances here that show Paul's affections and warmth towards this church. Why do you think he feels like this?

3. Summarise in your own words what Paul's great longing for them is (v. 9-11). How would Paul describe what it means to be 'complete'?

Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of God's Word, spend some time praying together.

1. How are you challenged in verses 9 to 11 about what you long for in yourself and in others?
2. How are you comforted in verse 6 that God can achieve this in you and in others?

Spend some time praying verses 9 to 11 also for:

- (a) A Christian friend/family member who's not part of this GaP group
- (b) A non-Christian friend/family member that God might start that work of the gospel in them.

Read the Bible with us!

Using some of the questions to guide you.

1. What comfort is the Spirit giving me through this passage?
2. How is He challenging me through this passage?

Monday – [2 Corinthians 6](#)

Tuesday – [2 Corinthians 7](#)

Wednesday – [2 Corinthians 8](#)

Thursday – [2 Corinthians 9](#)

Friday – [2 Corinthians 10](#)

Notices

International Food Feast & Alpha

We're a church for anyone in our community to come and explore life, meaning and faith. One of the best places to do that is through our Monday night Alpha course which kicks off August 18 with our International Food Feast. Last year, we had over 100 people at our feast from many of the cultural backgrounds of our city. Who could you bring along this year? Grab a flier to give to a friend. If you'd like also to help out on the night, please fill out a Connect card.



Baptism Celebration: Korelle's story

How did you come to believe in Jesus?

I've always been curious about Jesus, since my great grandmother whom I'm named after, would read the Bible to me when I was a little girl. Then, when I met my husband's family, who are Christians, I was drawn to their peaceful and calming presence—which I instantly wanted to be apart of.

For years I felt this pull towards Jesus, then I would pull away over and over. It wasn't until we struggled for years to have children, that I cried out to Jesus to bless us with a child and that I promised they would know his name. The next month we fell pregnant with our daughter Ava, then 16 months later we had our second daughter Ivy.

How it all began at St Stephen's: I bumped into our neighbour Kuan one day and she mentioned that there was a playgroup at the church I could take the children to and that she would come along and help me. I attended the playgroup and immediately felt a warm welcome, everyone was kind and helpful. 2 years later and we still attend Playtime.

I started asking more and more questions about Jesus and reading the books you can borrow at church; I thought I need to learn about Jesus, so we could help teach the children I then did Alpha with Leanne and read the Bible together. Then I asked about getting myself baptised, which lead to doing a baptism course with Gordon where I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour.

What do I love about Jesus?

There are so many reasons, but the main ones are His unconditional love, and that it doesn't matter if you are broken or put together, He loves you no matter and that He can carry all your worries/burdens.

How has Jesus been changing your life?

A lot of positive ways—the spiritual presence, calmness, parenting through a different lens, reassurance of knowing you always have someone to count on, and that He has a plan, which gives me a sense of His peace.



Notices

All In Training

All In TRAINING

SUNDAY, 24TH AUGUST

All-In Training is designed to encourage and equip you with the conviction and skills to serve faithfully. Come be refreshed, sharpen your gifts, and grow in confidence as we learn to serve God and His church together!



Who
ALL VOLUNTEERS



Time
11:45-2:15PM



Date
SUNDAY, 24TH AUGUST



Lunch + kid's program
INLCUED





Register here

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms

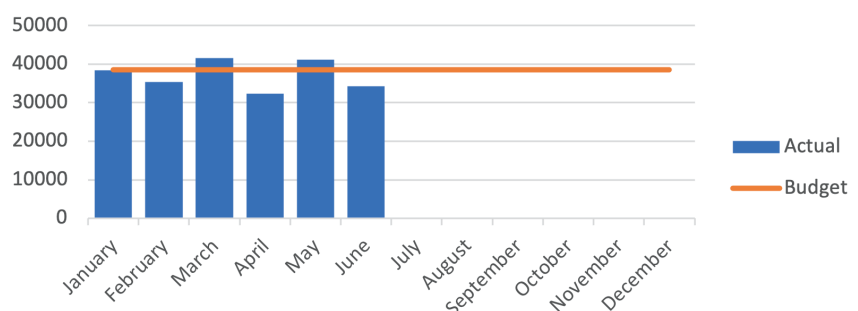
1 Peter 4:10

Finance update

Church life is great! We become a community, a family built on grace - the unmerited mercy shown to us by God. Church life also flourishes as we express grace and generosity to each other. One key way of doing that is financially supporting the life of our church.

Everything we do is funded by the generous giving of the St Stephen's community. We would love to invite you to partner with us and help fill the gap in our budget.

Actual Giving V Budget (linear) - 2025



What's Coming Up

8 August	The Send – Combined Youth Night
18 August	International Food Feast
22 August	Friday Kids & HPS Big Week
23 August	Grandparents Conference
24 August	All In Training

For more on what's happening this winter at St Stephen's, visit
st-stephens.com.au/winter

Our Staff - Contact Us!



Prashanth Colombage
Senior Minister & Sunday Services
M: 0432 314 466
E: prash@st-stephens.com.au



Gordon Luk
Outreach & GaP Groups
E: gordon@st-stephens.com.au



Pippie Krebs
Kids & Youth Minister & Training
E: pippie@st-stephens.com.au



Jill Chilton
Membership Minister
E: jill@st-stephens.com.au



Bec Simmons
Off-site Administrator
E: office@st-stephens.com.au