

Finding True Joy

A GRACE-FILLED LIFE FROM THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS



Week 1

Sunday 10 August 2025

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Interview
- Bible Reading: Philippians 1:1-26 (p. 1178)
- Sermon
- Song
- Prayers
- Lord's Supper
- 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.

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

Welcome to church this morning—it's great to have you with us, especially if you're new or visiting.

We're a church that longs to be **made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ.**

That means we want to be a community shaped by God's grace—growing in love for Jesus, welcoming people from every background, and seeing more come to know him.

Today we start reflections on Philippians, a letter filled with deep joy and purpose. This morning we'll be exploring what it means to live in a way that honours Christ, whatever our circumstances.

We'll also be sharing in the Lord's Supper, a time of remembering Jesus' death for us and expressing our unity in him.

Whether you're curious about faith or have been a Christian for years, we're so glad you're here. There's a QR code here if you'd like to connect—we'd love to say hello.



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 those not sharing in Lord's Supper

Participation in the Lord's Supper is for those who have professed faith in Jesus - it's a powerful and important symbol of the Christian message. As such we want to encourage those who are still exploring the Christian faith to feel free to remain in their seats when others move to the front to receive the Lord's Supper. During that time you may want to reflect on the sermon or Bible reading. You may also want to pray one of these prayers below.

Prayer for those searching for truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me who you are. Give me an understanding of you that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for those struggling with sin

Lord Jesus, enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayers adapted from Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York.

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

Living with Purpose No Matter What | Philippians 1:1-26

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Discuss together

“Do you think it's true that hard times show what someone truly lives for?”

Going deep in God's Word

Read Philippians 1:12-26

1. List out all the things that you think really matter to Paul.
2. What do you think it means to “advance the gospel”? (v. 12)
3. What does Paul mean by “to live is Christ and to die is gain”? (v. 21)
4. Reflect on the gospel message. How does the gospel make sense of why Paul can live and suffer with joy?

Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

Spend some time reflecting on the following questions, sharing and praying together.

What might it practically look like for you to say in your current life circumstances?

1. "What has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel."

2. "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."

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 Cor 11:1-15](#)

Tuesday – [2 Cor 11:16-33](#)

Wednesday – [2 Cor 12:1-10](#)

Thursday – [2 Cor 12:11-21](#)

Friday – [Philemon](#)

Notices

International Food Feast & Alpha

You're invited to our International Food Feast on Monday 18 August! We're hoping to see and taste dishes from all over the world, made by members of our own diverse community. It's a casual, vibrant night to welcome people from our community to our church—a great one to invite friends to.

You can bring a dish or just pay for the best \$10 you'll spend on a meal! You'll also get a taste of Alpha, a chance to open a discussion about life, faith and meaning over food. Many in our church family have found Alpha to be a warm and welcoming space to ask questions and discover more about Jesus. Bring a friend, and make sure to register this week!



We want to invite you to our

INTERNATIONAL FOOD FEAST

 MONDAY 18 AUGUST

 7:00 - 9:30 PM

 ST STEPHEN'S WILLOUGHBY
211 MOWBRAY RD

FREE if you bring a dish, otherwise \$10pp



Scan the QR code to book your spot at st-stephens.com.au/international-food



Notices

All In Training

Our final instalment of All-in Training is coming up.

Come get trained to serve God's people and his mission better. We hope to see all volunteers join us for lunch, training from our special guest trainer Tom Pattinson (Assistant at Christ Church St Ives) and time with your teams.



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

Date
SUNDAY, 24TH AUGUST

Time
11:45-2:15PM

Lunch + kid's program
INCLUDED

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

Big Week Friday Kids & Half Past Six



St Stephen's WILLOUGHBY

Half past six youth group

Colour War

Friday August 22nd
6:30- 8:15
St Stephens Willoughby

At Half Past Six Youth, we are all about
JESUS, FUN & FRIENDS.
Dinner included

SCAN here for more information and to register

For more info please email
Nikita@st-stephens.com.au
All leaders are trained and abide by the safe ministry guidelines of the Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney.

St Stephen's WILLOUGHBY

FRIDAY KIDS

COLOUR WAR

Does everyone die?
When: Friday August 29th
Time: 3:30-5:00
Where: St Stephens, Willoughby
Cost: \$15
For more info email:
children@st-stephens.com.au
WPS Walking Bus Available

Registration details to follow

All leaders are trained and abide by the safe ministry guidelines of the Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney.

What's Coming Up

18 August	International Food Feast
22 August	HPS Big Week
23 August	Grandparents Conference
24 August	All In Training
27-29 August	Staff Retreat

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

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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