

Finding True Joy

A GRACE-FILLED LIFE FROM THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS



Week 2

Sunday 17 August 2025

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Song
- Bible Reading: Philippians 1:27-30 (p. 1179)
- Sermon
- 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.

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

Welcome to church this morning—it's great to have you here, whether you're visiting, new, or a regular part of our family.

We long to be a church **made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ**. That vision is what drives us to keep growing in our love for Jesus, to welcome people from all walks of life, and to share the hope we have in him.



Today our sermon will focus on standing for Jesus—holding firm in our faith no matter the challenges, and living in a way that honours him. It's an important reminder as we head into Monday night's International Food Feast, where we're praying for many guests to hear the good news.

If you're new, we'd love to connect—just scan the QR code in this bulletin. And please join us after the service for morning tea and conversation.

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.

Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts.
Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our
God, for he will freely pardon.

Isaiah 55:7

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

Standing Firm in a Shaky World | Philippians 1:27-30

Preacher: Gordon Luk

What are we known for?

“Conducting ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ” (v. 27)

1. Standing firm in the one Spirit
2. Striving together as one for the gospel
3. Not being frightened of opposition and suffering

The radical gospel demands a radical life

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Discuss together

When have you seen a group of people work together so well that it inspired you? What made it so effective?

Going deep in God's Word

Read Philippians 1:27-30

1. List out/highlight all the words and phrases in this passage that allude to the unity amongst the believers.

2. Which do you think you/we are most in danger of:
 - (a) Striving on your own for the gospel (ie. Being a solo Christian/doing gospel ministry on your own)
 - (b) Striving together as one for something other than the gospel advancing in the world and in our hearts

3. In verses 29-30, Paul speaks about suffering as something "granted" to believers. What do you think he means by this and how does this challenge common assumptions about the Christian life?

4. How is gospel unity and suffering for Christ part of a life that's worthy of the gospel? What about the gospel itself makes these things non-negotiables for Christians?

Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of God's Word, spend some time reflecting on the following questions and praying together.

1. What are some hardships, opposition (direct or indirect) that you have experienced because you are a Christian? What comfort can you draw from God's Word here?
2. How can we prepare our hearts to see suffering for Christ not as a setback but as a privilege?
3. What might it look like for you and our church to strive together as one for the gospel?

Spend some time to pray for the All-In Training this coming Sunday and for our service teams to strive together as one for the gospel.

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 - [James 1](#)

Tuesday - [James 2](#)

Wednesday - [James 3](#)

Thursday - [James 4](#)

Friday - [James 5](#)

Notices

International Food Feast & Alpha

The International Food Feast is tomorrow night! Not too late to register nor to bring a friend along. Book your spot by tonight! It's going to be a great night of flavours and food from around the world, where we welcome our community to the church and open up a conversation about life, faith and Jesus.

At the feast, there will be a taste of the Alpha course where we explore the question: "Is there more to life?" The Alpha course will continue to run on Monday nights after the feast in August and September.

A collage of various international dishes including curries, rice, and bread. The dishes are presented in a vibrant and appetizing manner, with some featuring fresh herbs and garnishes. The collage is set against a red background with decorative elements like a small pizza and a bowl of soup.

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-feast

Notices

All In Training

All-in Training is back for the 3rd and final time on Sunday 24 August. This time we have Rev. Tom Pattison, the Serve minister from Christ Church St Ives training and encouraging us. Register for catering please. We hope and expect all volunteers will make time for this event. Includes lunch and kids program.

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



Serve story

The team organising the logistics of tomorrow night's International Food Feast are an encouraging example of "striving together as one for the faith of the gospel" (Phil 1:27b).

Here are some quotes about why they're serving and how serving gives them joy.



"I feel so grateful to be part of something that nourishes both the body (ie. the food at the feast) and the soul (ie. God's Word)."

"I want others to experience the hospitality of Christ when they come into our church. I also love food!"



What's Coming Up

18 August	International Food Feast
21 August	Encounter for Seniors
22 August	HPS Big Week
24 August	All In Training
25 August	Alpha Course

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

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