

Finding True Joy

A GRACE-FILLED LIFE FROM THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS



Week 3

Sunday 24 August 2025

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- MTS Apprentices
- Bible Reading: Philippians 2:1-11 (p. 1179)
- Sermon
- Song
- Prayers
- 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! We're so glad you've joined us, especially if you're visiting or just beginning to explore who Jesus is. Our vision as a church is to be **made beautiful, diverse, and large by the gracious work of Christ**. That means we want to be a community where people from all walks of life discover the transforming beauty of knowing Jesus, are united in Him despite our differences, and grow as more people come to share in His grace.



Today we're continuing our series in Philippians, looking at the humility of Christ. It's a powerful reminder that true greatness is not found in status or self-promotion but in lowering ourselves for the good of others, just as Jesus did for us.

After morning tea today, we'll also be gathering for our final All-in Training Event for the year—an exciting chance to grow together as God's people.

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.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:1

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 Power of Humility | Philippians 2:1-11

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

The Shape of our heart

Example of Jesus

Problem of Pride

1.

2.

3.

4.

A Song for our heart

about Jesus's purpose

about Jesus's glory

A Heart that sings!

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Discuss together

Can you think of a time when you saw disunity in a group of people? What happened? How did it begin?

Going deep in God's Word

Read Philippians 2:1-11

1. In pairs, share what struck you from the passage (ie. What do you love? What do you find challenging?)

2. Looking at verses 6-11, how would you graph Jesus's path/trajectory described?



3. How does Jesus' path help us live out the instructions in verses 1-5? How does this attitude compare with how the world teaches us to live?

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 do you find challenging in the passage? What could be something you could ask God to help you do in response to that challenge?

2. What about Jesus in our passage filled your heart with joy and thankfulness?

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 - [1 Peter 1](#)

Tuesday - [1 Peter 2](#)

Wednesday - [1 Peter 3](#)

Thursday - [1 Peter 4](#)

Friday - [1 Peter 5](#)

Notices

Alpha Course

Alpha begins tomorrow night and continues for the next 5 Monday nights! Alpha is a great place to meet others and have meaningful conversations about the things that matter in life.

Each week you eat dinner together, watch a short video and have a chance to ask your questions. Everyone is welcome and it's free!

explore
life
faith
meaning

COME & SEE
MONDAYS 7-9PM
at St Stephen's Willoughby
FREE DINNER INCLUDED!



 Mon 18 Aug (International Food Feast) Is there more to life?	 Mon 8 Sep How can I have faith?
 Mon 25 Aug Who is Jesus?	 Mon 15 Sep Why & how do I pray?
 Mon 1 Sep Why did Jesus die?	 Mon 22 Sep How do I read the Bible?

 **St Stephen's**
WILLOUGHBY

TryAlpha

Belonging

The key to a rich church experience is really belonging to the community. Belonging to church is unlike any other group. On top of that belonging to our church has its own special and lovely features. We want newer members to experience the heart of this great community. We run a 'Belonging Lunch' once every quarter to help this happen. The next one is on Sunday 14 September. Let us know via the Connect Card if you are interested in attending.

Notices

Gospel and Prayer Group Story

Our Gospel and Prayer groups (GaP groups) meet at many days and times during the week. It's where we encourage each other to live out the gospel as we dig into God's Word together and pray for each other.

Here's what Peter G says about his group:

"Meeting every week with my GaP group reenergises me spiritually. It also helps me reprioritise what is most important as I head into my week."



International Food Feast Celebration

Praise God for the International Food Feast last Monday night! Special thank you to all who cooked, organised, cleaned up, set up and all who invited friends to come along. We had over 80 people come along including 43 guests.

We're praying that many of our guests would continue to explore life, meaning and faith tomorrow night at Alpha.



What's Coming Up

25 August	Alpha Course
27-29 August	Staff Retreat
29 August	Friday Kids Big Week
31 August	Newish Morning Tea
2 September	Playtime with Alpha

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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