

Finding True Joy

A GRACE-FILLED LIFE FROM THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS



Week 5

Sunday 7 September 2025

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

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Song
- Confession & Assurance
- Song
- Spotlight
- Song
- CMS Video
- Interview
- Prayers
- Philippians 2:19-30 (p. 1180)
- Sermon
- Lord's Supper
- 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! We're so glad you could join us—whether you've been part of our community for years or are visiting for the first time. Our vision is to see God [make us into a church that is beautiful, diverse, and large by the gracious work of Christ](#). Today is a special day: not only do we share together in the Lord's Supper—remembering Jesus' great sacrifice that brings us forgiveness and new life—but we also get to meet our newest link missionaries. It's always encouraging to see how God is at work far beyond our own community, and to partner in prayer and support. As we open God's Word together, we'll keep hearing how Christ shapes us to live as his people in the world.



We're so glad you're here, and we pray you'll experience the hope and joy found in Jesus with us today. Do let us know how you found the morning using the Connect Card.

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 21 September. 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

How Ordinary People Can Make a Big Impact | Philippians 2:19-30

Preacher: Gordon Luk

Real people, real feelings, real relationships

1. The joy of gospel partnerships

(a) Timothy — “as a son” (v. 22)

(b) Epaphroditus — “brother, co-worker, fellow soldier” (v. 25)

2. The honour of gospel servants

(a) Timothy — seeking the interests of Christ above his own (v. 21)

(b) Epaphroditus – who risked his life for the work of Christ (v. 30)

Jesus — who sought our interests above His own and gave His life to save us

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Discuss together

What kind of people do we honour in our culture/society? What do you think that reflects about what we value and think is important?

Going deep in God's Word

Read Philippians 2:19-30

1. What do you notice about what Paul values in Timothy and Epaphroditus?
2. What do you notice about how he describes his relationship with them?
3. Why do you think Paul honours his relationship with Timothy and Epaphroditus in this way? Why do you think he calls out the characteristics about them in this way? (ie. Why is Jesus worthy of this way of life?)

Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

You may want to break into smaller groups to share and pray in light of God's Word.

1. In what ways can you seek the interests of Christ, above your own (v. 21)?
2. What might it look like for you to do something radical and 'risky' for the work of Christ (v. 30)?

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 John](#)

Tuesday - [3 John](#)

Wednesday - [Jude](#)

Thursday - [Revelation 1](#)

Friday - [Revelation 2](#)

Notices

Link Partner Visit

Today we have J, A and their children, our newest Link Partners. They are traveling to Eurasia. Over the coming week they will be visiting a few GaP Groups, Kids & Youth Ministries, Playtime, Alpha and Parish Council. Enjoy getting to know them!

Belonging

Joining a church can be a great experience - you find new friends who treat you with love and care. You get to serve alongside people. You get to encourage and be encouraged. You have your heart filled with hope and joy from the gospel. We want to help that happen well for you - if you haven't, come along to Belonging on Sunday 14 September for lunch, great conversation and the chance to meet other new members and the staff team.



Working Bee

Now that Spring has sprung, it's time for St Stephen's to have a spring clean! Join us on the 13th September from 8am-12pm to do some gardening, polishing, scrubbing, sorting or some lifting and carrying!



Notices

Playtime Alpha

We are running Alpha after playtime during September. Praise God, 3 people came last Tuesday!

This is a wonderful opportunity for carers to explore questions of life, faith and meaning. Who can you bring along?

- 📍 Where: St Stephen's
- 📅 When: Tuesdays in September
- 🕒 Time: 11:00-12:00 (after Playtime)

Light Lunch and kids' program included



What's Coming Up

8 September	Alpha Course
9 September	Playtime with Alpha
13 September	Working Bee
14 September	Belonging Course
21 September	Newish Morning Tea

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

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