



Westside Baptist Church Bulletin

August 31, 2025
12th Sunday after
Pentecost

Speaker: Pastor Mark Wong

During Worship

- ▶ Be still and prepare your heart for worship.
- ▶ Please close the main hall doors gently during worship services.
- ▶ Please take care of your personal belongings to avoid theft.

Offering

- ▶ Welcome to donate via E-transfer, email: westsidebaptistoffering@gmail.com
- ▶ To donate by cash or cheque, please use an offering envelope and put it into the offering bag during worship.
- ▶ When making a donation, please indicate your donation envelope number and your full legal name. The offering envelope number can be obtained from the church office.

Notes to CitRUs parents:

- ▶ The enrollment age for CitRUs Children's Ministry starts from age 3; one parent can accompany children under 3 to participate in worship in Room B.
- ▶ Classes are held on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am at Room E & F.
- ▶ Please supervise your children after you have picked them up from the classroom.

Parking

- ▶ The upstairs parking lot (Parking Lot 1) is designated for new comers, people with reduced mobility, the elderly and families with young children.
- ▶ The indoor parking lot downstairs (Parking Lot 2) will be closed at 1:00 pm on Sundays. Afterwards, you will have to wait until 10:00 am on Tuesday morning to collect your vehicle.
- ▶ Additional parking spaces are available at 8508 Ash Street (Parking Lot 3) on Saturdays from 4:00 - 7:00pm and Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Maps are available in the foyer.
- ▶ To be considerate of our neighbors, please do not park in the residential area.
- ▶ When parking in the outdoor parking lot downstairs (Parking Lot 2), please be careful not to block the emergency exits and keep a distance of 3 feet from the building's exterior wall so that the emergency exit doors can be fully opened.
- ▶ Please park and lock your bike/e-bike outside. Do not park the bike inside the building.
- ▶ Congregants are required to register online annually to park at the church or 8508 Ash during worship services. Registration link: <https://forms.gle/TDSft5sAJgk5QMeN8>



Scripture Reading Plan

- ▶ In the latter part of Romans, Paul calls believers to live a Spirit-filled life, grounded in God's mercy and marked by love, unity, and hope. Our words and actions are to bear witness to the gospel.
- ▶ Chapter 8 proclaims the freedom we have in Christ: no condemnation, life through the Spirit, and the assurance that nothing can separate us from God's love. Chapters 9–11 reflect on Israel's place in God's salvation plan, affirming that His promises never fail and His mercy extends to both Jews and Gentiles.
- ▶ From chapter 12 onward, Paul turns to practical teaching. He urges us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices, to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, and to live out the new life in Christ through love, humility, and service. Chapters 13–15 remind us of our responsibilities in society, to love one another, to avoid judgment, and to welcome each other as Christ has welcomed us—so that God may be glorified.
- ▶ Reading Plan for this week:
 - ▶ August 31 (Sunday): Romans 8:18-39
 - ▶ September 1 (Monday): Romans 9:1-33
 - ▶ September 2 (Tuesday): Romans 10:1-21
 - ▶ September 3 (Wednesday): Romans 11:1-32
 - ▶ September 4 (Thursday): Romans 12:1-21
 - ▶ September 5 (Friday): Romans 13:1-14
 - ▶ September 6 (Saturday): Romans 14:1-23
 - ▶ September 7 (Sunday): Romans 15:1-13

Co • Mission

40. Hope Carriers

[Romans 8:18-25]

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.
[Romans 8:18]

Sermon Outline**Introduction**

- ▶ Big Picture: Romans 1 → sin unravels creation; Romans 8 → hope in the midst of groaning.
- ▶ Illustration: Newsfeed tension — beauty & brokenness side by side.

The Frame of Suffering and Glory (vv. 18–21)

- ▶ Present sufferings vs. incomparable glory.
- ▶ Illustration: Olympic athlete — temporary pain, lasting glory.
- ▶ Theology: Creation's futility (mataiotēs), but subjected in hope.
- ▶ Cross-references: Isaiah 65:17, Rev. 21:1, 2 Cor. 4:16–18.

The Groaning of Creation (v. 22)

- ▶ Creation groans like childbirth — pain with purpose.
- ▶ Theology: Genesis 3 curse → creation's frustration; tied to humanity's destiny.
- ▶ Illustration: Wildfires, floods — contractions of creation.
- ▶ Application: Don't despair; let creation's groans awaken hope.

My Reflection

- ▶ What did God tell me through the message today?

The Groaning of Believers (vv. 23–25)

- ▶ We groan as those who have the Spirit's firstfruits.
- ▶ Theology: Adoption now and not yet; apolytrōsis = liberation.
- ▶ Illustration: Terry Fox (pain with purpose), Engagement (already/not yet).
- ▶ Verse 25: Hope unseen → true hope.
- ▶ Application: Hebrews 6:19, hope as anchor for the soul.

The Groaning of the Spirit (vv. 26–27)

- ▶ The Spirit intercedes with wordless groans.
- ▶ Theology: Synantilambanetai = lifting the burden with us
- ▶ Illustration: Translator in a foreign land, autocorrect gone wrong.
- ▶ Application: Prayer isn't about eloquence, but presence. Spirit prays for us.

Hope in the Time of Groaning (vv. 18–27)

- ▶ Suffering and glory are inseparable but not comparable (Stott).
- ▶
- ▶ Hope is anchored in God's promises (Isa. 65, Rev. 21, 2 Cor. 4).
- ▶ Douglas Moo: Spirit as down payment of salvation.
- ▶ Application Challenge: Live as people of hope — patience, love, prayer, witness.

My Reflection

- ▶ What did God tell me through the message today?

My Prayer Response

- ▶ Write down your responsive prayer for God's word today.

My Action Response

- ▶ What changes will you make in response to God's word today?

Small Group Discussions

1. In Romans 8:18, Paul says our present sufferings are not worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed. How does this perspective shift the way we approach pain and trials in our lives today?
2. Paul describes creation as “groaning” like a woman in childbirth (v. 22). How does this metaphor help us understand the brokenness we see in the natural world around us?
3. In verses 23–25, Paul talks about believers groaning inwardly as we await our adoption and the redemption of our bodies. How do you personally experience this “already/not yet” tension in your walk with Jesus?
4. Hebrews 6:19 describes hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. What does it look like to live anchored in hope when circumstances around you feel unstable?
5. In verses 26–27, Paul explains how the Spirit intercedes for us with “wordless groans.” How does knowing that the Spirit prays for you change the way you view prayer in moments when you feel weak or lost for words?
6. The sermon challenged us to live as people of hope while we wait for glory. What are some practical ways you can embody that hope in your daily life, relationships, and community?

Announcements

- Our **short-term mission team** set off for Bolivia on August 21! Please continue to lift them up in prayer for a safe journey and a fruitful time of ministry. You can follow their updates and learn more about the trip at: <https://bolivia.causevox.com/>.
- **WBC 101** will begin at the end of September. Those who wish to be baptized or transfer membership during this Christmas season and become members of Westside are welcome to join. The course dates are September 28, October 12, October 19, November 30, and December 7, held on Sunday afternoons. Please register at universe.com/westside.
- **CitRUs Friday & CitRUs Sunday** begins on September 5th with meetings on Fridays and Sundays. There are many new changes coming. Registered parents should have received an email about these changes. Please read or watch it before the launch.
- The church is joining Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM) to participate the **Active In Mission**, supporting food aid programs in 14 countries, including Canada. This year’s national fundraising goal is CAD \$100,000. There are 20 fundraisers from WBC this year. Please donate on the individual participant’s page: <https://www.activeinmission.ca/t/wbc>. **Today is the last day to make donations.** Donations are eligible for a tax receipt issued by CBM.



Fellowship Life

- **Westside 101** is a course designed for anyone who wishes to join us as a member through baptism or transfer of membership. It consists of approximately five 90-minute classes. Please register at universe.com/westside
- **Small groups** are the heart of our fellowship life and an essential part of our holistic Christian living. We invite you to join our small groups if you are willing to commit. To register, please visit universe.com/westside

