



Westside Baptist Church Bulletin

October 5, 2025
17th Sunday after
Pentecost

Speaker: Pastor Shirley Shek

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

- ▶ As we are completing our reading of Acts, our subsequent readings were all written after the narrative of Acts concludes.
- ▶ Philippians was likely written by Paul when he was imprisoned in Rome and waiting for his hearing by Caesar. It was written to the church in Philippi, which he founded during his second missionary journey. Even though Paul was suffering, the letter is filled with joy, gratitude, and encouragement because he understood their identity as belonging to the Kingdom of Heaven.
- ▶ Reading Plan for this week:
 - ▶ October 5 (Sunday): Acts 28:16-31
 - ▶ October 6 (Monday): Philippians 1:1-26
 - ▶ October 7 (Tuesday): Philippians 1:27-2:11
 - ▶ October 8 (Wednesday): Philippians 2:12-30
 - ▶ October 9 (Thursday): Philippians 3:1-21
 - ▶ October 10 (Friday): Philippians 4:1-23
 - ▶ October 11 (Saturday): 1Timothy 1:1-20
 - ▶ October 12 (Sunday) 1Timothy 2:1-15

Co · Mission

45. The Identity of the Citizen of Heaven [Philippians 1:27-2:4; 3:17-21]

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.
[Philippians 3:20]

Sermon Outline

Introduction

- The Historical Background of the City of Philippi

Paul's Message to the Philippian Believers about Citizens of Heaven:

- A. The Responsibilities and Duties of Citizens of Heaven

- B. Citizens of Heaven as a United, Love-Guarding Community

My Reflection

- What did God tell me through the message today?

My Reflection

- What did God tell me through the message today?

C. Reordering the Values of Citizens of Heaven

Conclusion

- Allegiance to God

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

Icebreaking

1. Have you ever been especially proud of belonging to a group (a school, a team, a country, even a family tradition)? What made you feel that way?
2. What's one responsibility you take seriously (at work, home, or church)? How does it shape your daily life?

Know

1. Why did Paul write a letter to the believers in Philippi?
2. How does knowing Paul's purpose in writing Philippians help you understand the content of the letter?
3. Why did Paul especially use the imagery of "living as citizens" (Philippians 1:27) and "citizens of heaven" (Philippians 3:20) to exhort the Philippian believers?
4. Why would the speaker pastor use the phrase "the civic awareness of heavenly citizens" to describe the way believers should love one another in the church community?
5. Why did Paul repeatedly remind the Philippians to "rejoice in the Lord always"? What difficulties did they face as followers of Christ in the city of Philippi?

Feel

1. Compare your earthly citizenship in a particular nation with your identity as a citizen of heaven. Do you see any tensions or conflicts between the two? Can you share some examples?
2. Paul calls believers to shift their loyalty from earthly rulers to Christ. In what practical ways can we show this allegiance in everyday decisions?
3. Just as Philippians represented Rome to the world, Christians are called to represent Christ and God's Kingdom. How can you consciously live as God's ambassador in your family, workplace, and community?
4. Can you think of a time when you made a public promise (like graduation vows, marriage vows, work commitments, or even citizenship oaths)? How did it feel to say those words out loud?
5. Baptism is our public oath of allegiance to Christ. If you have already been baptized, do you think you have been faithful to this pledge? If you have not yet been baptized, what has held you back from making this public commitment to Christ?

Do

- Share with your group: In your current life, what is the biggest challenge you face in living out your identity as a citizen of heaven? What concrete steps or commitments can you make in this area? And how can your group members support you?

Announcements

- The church will organize a **fall cleaning event** and invite help from small groups.
- **The church will have the carpets cleaned on October 7.** To facilitate this, we'll be moving some furniture on Sunday, October 5, from 12:30–1:45 p.m. after worship. Volunteers are needed—please contact Pastor Mark or Pastor Patrick if you can help.

2026–2028 Deacon Election

- Nomination Committee Members:
 - Deacon Representatives: Dick Chan, Monica Tong, Jackson Yu
 - Congregation Representatives: Lobo Ho, Tommy Tung, Anita Yu
- The criteria and procedures for the deacon election have been posted on the bulletin board. Please read them carefully. If needed, nomination forms can be obtained from the church office.
- All nominees must be reviewed and recommended by the Nomination Committee.
- Deacon Election Timeline:
 - Nomination Begins: September 20
 - Nomination Deadline: October 19
 - Announcement of Deacon Candidates: November 8
 - Deacon Election: November 23
- Election format to be announced.