



Westside Baptist Church Bulletin

September 28, 2025
16th 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

- ▶ This week, our readings from Ephesians 5-6 and Acts 25-28 remind us of both the call to holy living and the courage to witness for Christ. Paul instructs believers to walk in love, live as children of light, honor Christ in our homes and work, and put on the full armor of God. In Acts, we see Paul's bold testimony before rulers, his dangerous voyage to Rome, and his faithful proclamation of the gospel, even in chains. These passages encourage us to live faithfully and courageously, trusting God's Spirit to strengthen us in every circumstance.
- ▶ Reading Plan for this week:
 - ▶ September 28 (Sunday): Ephesians 5:21-33
 - ▶ September 29 (Monday): Ephesians 6:1-23
 - ▶ September 30 (Tuesday): Acts 25:1-27
 - ▶ October 1 (Wednesday): Acts 26:1-32
 - ▶ October 2 (Thursday): Acts 27:1-20
 - ▶ October 3 (Friday): Acts 27:21-44
 - ▶ October 4 (Saturday): Acts 28:1-15
 - ▶ October 5 (Sunday): Acts 28:16-31

Co • Mission

44. Unity in Christ

[Ephesians 2:1-22]

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.
[Ephesians 2:14]

Sermon Outline

Big Idea:

- ▶ God is building a new humanity — through Christ we are brought from death to life, from far to near, from strangers to His dwelling place.

I. From Death to Life (2:1–10)

- ▶ Once: dead in trespasses and sins (spiritually barren).
- ▶ Enslaved by the world, the enemy, and the flesh.
- ▶ But God — rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ.
- ▶ Saved by grace, not works.
- ▶ We are His *workmanship* — His masterpiece, created for good works.

Illustration: Disneyland began as an empty orange grove → God transforms barren lives into His masterpiece.

II. From Far Off to Near (2:11–18)

- ▶ Gentiles: excluded, “far off,” without hope, without God.
- ▶ But now brought near by the blood of Christ.
- ▶ Jesus **is our peace**: He tore down the dividing wall of hostility.
- ▶ Abolished the ceremonial law; His cross makes one new humanity.
- ▶ Through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Illustration: Disneyland “lands” divided by walls → Jesus removes all barriers, makes one new humanity.

My Reflection

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

III. From Strangers to God's Dwelling (2:19–22)

- ▶ No longer strangers or outsiders — fellow citizens, members of God's household.
- ▶ Built on the apostles and prophets, with Christ as cornerstone.
- ▶ The church is the **temple** — the naos, the Holy of Holies.
- ▶ We don't just go to the temple — we are the temple.
- ▶ God is building us together into His dwelling place by the Spirit.

Illustration: Disneyland has its castle as centerpiece → God's true centerpiece is His people, His temple.

Conclusion

- ▶ C.S. Lewis: God is not patching up a cottage — He's building a palace to live in Himself.
- ▶ God's building project = us. His temple. His new humanity.

Takeaways:

1. Stop living like strangers — you belong.
2. Stop rebuilding walls Jesus already tore down.
3. Live with holy awe — you are God's temple.

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. From Death to Life

- ▶ Paul begins by saying, “*You were dead in your trespasses and sins*” (2:1).
 - ▶ What do you think Paul means by “dead”?
 - ▶ How does this contrast with the way our culture typically describes the human condition?

2. “But God…”

- ▶ Verse 4 says, “*But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love, made us alive with Christ.*”
 - ▶ Share a moment when you’ve experienced God’s “But God” intervention in your life.
 - ▶ How does knowing salvation is a gift of grace (not works) change the way we relate to God and others?

3. From Far Off to Near

- ▶ Paul says Gentiles were once “far off” but have been “brought near by the blood of Christ” (2:13).
 - ▶ Who are the people or groups in our world today who might feel “far off”?
 - ▶ What would it look like for the church to live as the place where those far away are brought near?

4. Breaking Down Walls

- ▶ Verse 14: “*He Himself is our peace… breaking down the dividing wall of hostility.*”
 - ▶ What walls (social, cultural, racial, personal) still divide people today?
 - ▶ How can we participate in Jesus’ work of tearing down those walls?

5. From Strangers to God’s Dwelling

- ▶ Paul says we are not just citizens or family but God’s temple — the naos, the Holy of Holies (vv. 21–22).
 - ▶ What does it mean for us to not just go to the temple but to be the temple?
 - ▶ How does this truth change the way we see church community, relationships, and even conflict?

6. God’s Ongoing Project

- ▶ C.S. Lewis said God is not patching up a cottage, but building a palace fit for Himself.
 - ▶ Where do you sense God “renovating” in your life right now?
 - ▶ How can our group encourage one another as we’re “being built together” into His dwelling place?

Announcements

- ▶ **Monthly bulletin** has been posted on the bulletin board and the church website. Please refer to it for important notices.
- ▶ The church will organize a **fall cleaning event** and invite help from small groups.
- ▶ The church will recruit a tech team for **website upgrades and maintenance**. Members who have the expertise are welcome to contact Pastor Mark or Deacon Michael Chau.
- ▶ In observance of **the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**, the church office will be closed on Tuesday, September 30.”

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.
- ▶ BC & Yukon Baptist Women’s Autumn Celebration
 - ▶ **One-Day Women’s Retreat** – Saturday, October 4, 2025
 - ▶ 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM | Trinity Baptist Church, 1460 W49th Ave, Vancouver, BC
 - ▶ **Theme: “Draw Near: Living from the Place of Intimacy”**
 - ▶ Speaker: Sephora Pierre-Louis – ministry leader, speaker, and author passionate about intimacy with God through prayer and spiritual practices.
 - ▶ **Register by: September 29, 2025**
 - ▶ Contact: bcytwomen@gmail.com for more info or registration forms.