



Westside Baptist Church Bulletin

June 29, 2025
3rd 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's Bible reading covers the start of Paul and Barnabas's missionary journey, where they preached the gospel to Gentiles across Cyprus and Galatia, facing persecution and performing miracles. Despite hardships, including Paul being nearly stoned to death, they stayed committed to their mission. Later, Paul expanded his ministry into Macedonia and Greece—visiting cities like Philippi, Thessalonica, Athens, and Corinth. There, he boldly shared the gospel amid cultural and philosophical challenges, using miracles, preaching, and thoughtful dialogue to connect the message of Christ to diverse audiences, demonstrating the Holy Spirit's guidance and God's power.
- ▶ Reading Plan for this week:
 - ▶ June 29 (Sunday): Acts 15:1-21
 - ▶ June 30 (Monday): 15:22-41
 - ▶ July 1 (Tuesday): Acts 16:1-15
 - ▶ July 2 (Wednesday): Acts 16:16-40
 - ▶ July 3 (Thursday): Acts 17:1-34
 - ▶ July 4 (Friday): Acts 18:1-28
 - ▶ July 5 (Saturday): 1Thessalonians 1:1-10
 - ▶ July 6 (Sunday): 1Thessalonians 2:1-19

Co · Mission

31. Becoming a Liberating Community

[Act 16:16-40]

Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. [Acts 16:26]

Sermon Outline

Big Idea

- ▶ A liberating church confronts injustice, worships through suffering, embraces the outsider—even the oppressor—and boldly stands for truth, because the gospel doesn't just set people free—it shakes the foundations of oppression.

Introduction

- ▶ Real liberation doesn't always start with freedom.
- ▶ Sometimes, chains fall off last.
- ▶ What does it look like to be spiritually free even while physically bound?

Scene 1: Confronting Injustice (vv. 16–21)

- ▶ Paul frees a girl spiritually—and economically.
- ▶ Gospel justice disrupts systems of exploitation.
- ▶ Reflection: Where are we called to speak Jesus' name into injustice?

Scene 2: Worshiping Through Suffering (vv. 22–25)

- ▶ Paul and Silas sing in prison—before they're free.
- ▶ Worship is a declaration of who God is, not how life feels.
- ▶ Habakkuk 3:17–18 — “Yet I will rejoice...”
- ▶ Question: What does midnight worship look like in your life?

My Reflection

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

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Scene 3: Embracing the Outsider (Even the Oppressor) (vv. 26–34)

- ▶ Paul and Silas stay—for the sake of their jailer.
- ▶ Grace doesn't just free the oppressed—it reaches the oppressor too.
- ▶ Application: Who needs grace from you—even if they don't "deserve" it?

Scene 4: Standing Boldly for Truth (vv. 35–40)

- ▶ Paul demands public acknowledgment—not revenge.
- ▶ Truth and love are not opposites—they travel together.
- ▶ Takeaway: Grace doesn't mean silence. It means speaking truth rooted in love.

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. **Where do you see injustice around you right now—at school, work, in your city, or online?**
How might Jesus be inviting you to “name it” and respond with both truth and love?
2. **Paul and Silas worshiped before they were set free.**
Can you think of a time when worship felt hard—but you did it anyway? What happened?
3. **The gospel freed a slave girl and embraced a Roman jailer.**
Why is it so difficult to extend grace to people who have hurt us? What does that reveal about our understanding of God’s grace?
4. **Paul didn’t stay silent about injustice—but he also didn’t seek revenge.**
What does it look like to stand up for what’s right without becoming bitter or combative?
5. **“The other prisoners were listening.”**
Who in your life is “listening” to how you live out your faith—especially during tough seasons? What kind of witness are they seeing?
6. **This passage ends with a public challenge to systems of oppression.**
What would it look like for our small group (or church) to become a liberating community in our city?

Announcements

- ▶ The Deacon Board will recommend the appointment of **Joseph Ng** as Assistant Pastor for Youth Ministry, with the term starting on August 1, 2025. This recommendation will be presented for discussion and voting at the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting. A **meet-and-greet session** will be held on July 6 from 12:45 PM to 1:30 PM, giving the congregation an opportunity to meet and interact with Joseph.
- ▶ The **Semi-annual Congregational Meeting** will take place on July 20 at 2:00 PM in the main hall. Members are kindly requested to attend on time. The agenda will be announced on July 5 and 6.
- ▶ **Registration for CitRUs and GZone for the 2025-2026 school year has begun!** There will be a significant reorganization in our children and youth ministry this September, affecting CitRUs, GZone and AWANA. If you have missed the information session for parents last week, you can review it using these links. Make sure you understand about the new programs before you register:

- ▶ **Cantonese:** <https://youtu.be/mC2aDbgB5p4>
- ▶ **English:** <https://youtu.be/B1FHOjSrElw>
- ▶ **Registration for CitRUs:**
<https://forms.gle/UYYWHEbsJq3NuB4eA>
- ▶ **Registration for GZone:**
<https://forms.gle/BXTBwubMWkbGR7tL8>

- ▶ **Vacation Bible School** still has limited spots available and is suitable for children going to be Grades 1 to 5 in September 2025. Spots are limited, and the fee is \$99 per child. The VBS will be held from August 18 to 22, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Registration link: tinyurl.com/WBC2025VBS
- ▶ The church is joining Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM) to co-organize **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. The donation link will be published on July 5 and 6. Congregants are encouraged to support the fundraising. Donations are eligible for a tax receipt issued by CBM.



- ▶ A **BBQ event** will be held on July 27 (Sunday) between 11:00am - 2:00pm at Riverfront Park. All are welcome to join. If you decided to join, please complete the online consent form at <https://forms.gle/WX18qkuEgCAMcmuh8>



- ▶ **July 5 Blood Donation Event:**
 - ▶ We reserved 10 spots for our church (aka Team) and they are all filled now.
 - ▶ Grateful to have half of us first time donating
 - ▶ Feel free to book around our reserved time 1-1:30pm if available to donate together.
 - ▶ Feel free to stay behind for a group picture together.
 - ▶ Even if you can’t join our group donation on July 5, join our team on the app when donating. Our goal is only 20 donations (not 20 donors) this year and after July 5, we are very close to meeting the goal.
 - ▶ Blood donation sign-up link: <https://tinyurl.com/56w7myta>