

# ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday 29 August 2021

Chit Chat  
Welcome and Notices  
Christine Bradbeer

Prayer of Invocation

Young @ Heart  
Christine Bradbeer

Bible Reading: Philippians 1:1-12  
Amanda Fairs

Sermon: Philippians #1 [of 4]  
Every Remembrance of You

Meditation  
Gigue, by Bach  
Amanda Fairs (viola)

Prayer of Intercession  
and  
The Lord's Prayer

Benediction



## NOTICES

29 August 2021

Website: [www.blackburnpc.org.au](http://www.blackburnpc.org.au)

Wednesday 1 September 1.30 pm Covenanted Prayer Time.  
Sunday 6 September 11 am Divine Service.  
Expected to be online only. If so live stream on Facebook, then later, w closed caption option on YouTube.

### For your prayers this week

Congregational members:

**Vic and Lynne ANSELL**  
[FYI Vic is our Treasurer]



and

**Chris and Julie DEAN** serve with CMS in East Timor and hope to return there on August 31. Pray that this works out!



GARDENIA ST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
53 Gardenia Street,  
Blackburn 3130

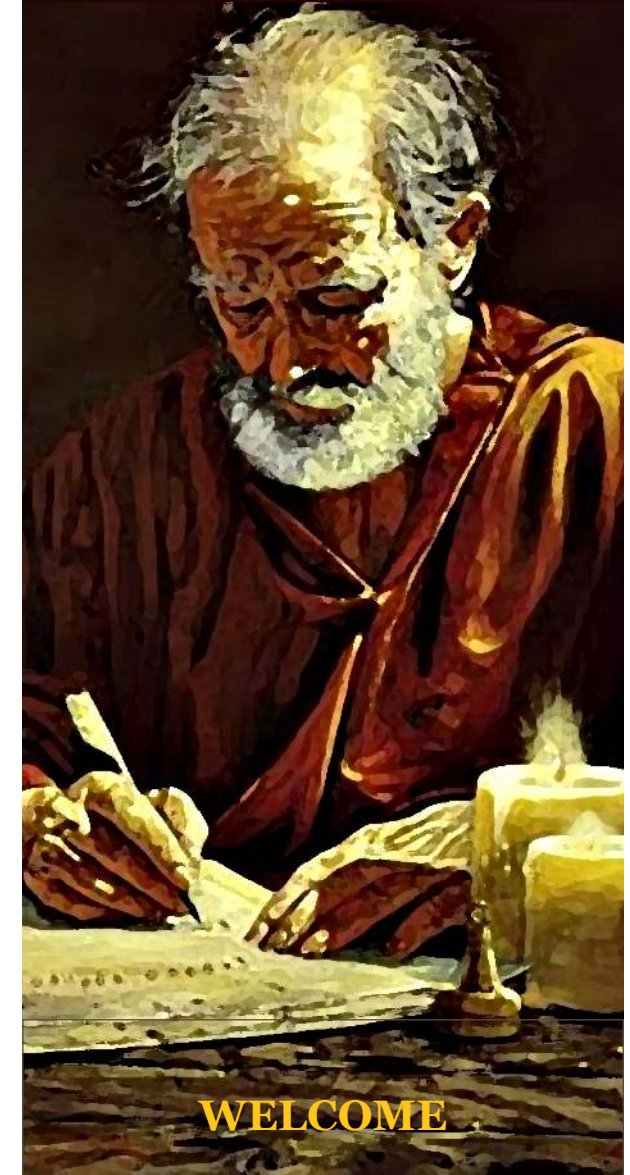


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GARDENIA ST.  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
BLACKBURN

29 August 2021



**WELCOME**

For your Prayers



The government failed to uphold commitments to the UN Human Rights Council around justice and reconciliation. As such, justice stalled and impunity prevailed, including in cases of killings and other violations allegedly linked to the ruling Rajapaksa family. Human rights defenders, journalists, lawyers and criminal investigators were increasingly intimidated and harassed. There were reports of deaths in custody and extrajudicial executions. Violence against women remained widespread.

Amnesty International

2020.

One year after the Sri Lankan Easter church bombings which killed over 250 people, the Sri Lankan government has begun plans to introduce new anti-conversion legislation, outlawing the choice to leave one religion for another and putting Christian communities at risk. In a speech to the Annual Convention of the All Ceylon Buddhist Councils, Sri Lankan Prime Minister, Mahinda Rajapaksa, targeted religious minorities. He labelled religious minorities as “threats facing the Sinhala Buddhist nation,” as more families turn away from their Buddhist beliefs in favour of religions like Christianity.

One local Open Doors partner said, “in rural areas of the country, most pastors and church planters are isolated within Buddhist villages. Already they are experiencing strong opposition from the villagers, local authorities and other religious group leaders. “If such a bill were to be passed, these pastors and workers would be subjected to more discrimination, and, due to the vaguely defined terms, even charitable actions could be punishable by prison sentences or fines.”

Sermon Outline

## The Philippi Letter #1 Every time I remember you

Contrary to the earnest prayer taught by Rabbi Yehudah, the God of Israel began his church in Macedonia with a woman, a slave and a Gentile. With such a beginning, how did the church work out? To answer this we turn for the next four Sundays to the letter to the Philippians.

**1. Introducing the post** Read the letter. Four chapters, about 20 minutes. The letter is written from prison. Of Paul's four known imprisonments, it is most likely he wrote while awaiting trial in Rome. A death sentence was a real possibility. Despite this, the letter is full of joy and rejoicing. Count the times these words occur, starting at 1:3!

Paul's thoughts centre on the great Christ hymn (2:6-10). Here we have a great picture of God's redemption in words well worth learning off by heart.

The post was delivered by Epaphroditus. He brought a gift from the 'saints' - people with a special kind of 'citizenship' - to Paul. Now, recovered from a serious illness, he returns with this letter to the Philippians.

**2. Remembering the past (1:3,7)**

Ten years on and the memory had not faded at all... While trying to locate a photograph among the thousands on my computer I came across many precious memories. Especially people whom I love. Paul had no image database to stimulate memory, but he says 'I hold you in my heart'.

To 're-member' is to put the picture together again, to collect the scattered fragments and restore the image. One of the deep longings of the human heart is to be known and to be remembered. God promises he will do this.

Paul's frequent remembering of the Philippi saints was a source of joy! It was to be a picture of the compassion of Jesus himself (1:8).

**3. Thanksgiving in prayer (11:15-40)**

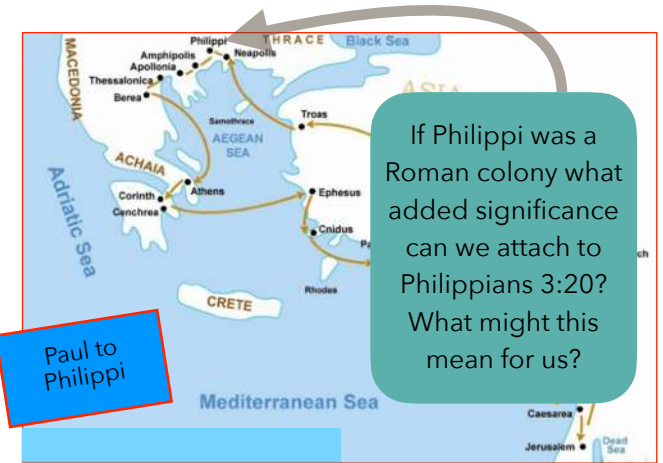
This helped fuel Paul's inner life. Despite imprisonment, his joy, issued in thanksgiving as his prayers opened his inner life to God. Since 'the Lord opened Lydia's heart', the Philippi saints had come to 'share in the gospel of grace'.

They were on board with the mission of the apostolic team. Had not Epaphroditus (2:25ff) borne their gift to the apostle in his need? No mean feat. On this basis Paul was confident that He who had begun the good work in them would bring it to completion (1:6).

**4. Assurance at the parousia (Philippians 1-4)**

The return of Jesus here called 'the day of Jesus Christ' will mark the end of the age. We each have our own end, but when Christ returns he will restore the kingdom to the Father and the earth will be filled with the knowledge of God.

We should remember that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day, lest we get fainthearted. Lydia and friends discovered Jesus is Lord, not Caesar. This was a dangerous and ridiculed faith, but it transformed lives and conveyed then as now that our lives matter to God.



If Philippi was a Roman colony what added significance can we attach to Philippians 3:20? What might this mean for us?

Coming up:

### Four Sermons from Paul's Philippi letter

We were on the road with Paul, but are taking a four week break from Acts. It's time out to look back from ten years later to see how Paul regarded the church which God began in Philippi with a business woman, a slave girl and a Gentile gaoler. I'm planning a one reflection on a key passage from each of the four chapters of this letter:

29 August #1 Philippians 1:3-6

**Every time I remember you**

5 September #2 Philippians 2:6-11

**Let this mind be in you**

12 September #3 Philippians 3:7-12

(no confidence in the flesh)

**I press on towards the goal**

19 September #4 Philippians 4:4-9

**Let your gentleness be known to all**

(the Lord is near)