A logo with blue waves on a black background

Description automatically generatedSunday 1 September 2024

8:45 AM Service

# **Service Overview**

**Speaker:** Reuben

**Sermon Series:** Learning To Walk

**Message:** Learning To Walk With Confidence

**Scripture Reference:** 1 John 3: 1-5, 13-15, 20-21

This transcription was generated by Adobe Premiere. It may contain small errors that don’t perfectly match up with words spoken and is provided to assist with accessibility but without warranty. While the document has been edited for spelling and clarity by a member of the congregation, the speaker(s) have not proof-read or corrected this document themselves.

# **Table of Contents** Click to navigate

* + [Service Welcome](#_Service_Welcome_)
  + [Worship Singing](#_Worship_Singing_1)
  + [Post-Worship Prayer](#_Post-Worship_Prayer_)
  + [Introduction, Announcements & Upcoming Events](#_Introduction,_Announcements_&_1)
  + [Prayer](#_Prayer___1)
  + [Introduction, Announcements & Upcoming Events Continued](#_Introduction,_Announcements_&_2)
  + [Prayer](#_Prayer___2)
  + [Bible Reading](#_Bible_Reading:_1)
  + [Sermon](#_Sermon:_Learning_To)
  + [Worship Singing](#_Worship_Singing)
  + [Post-Worship Prayer & Conclusion](#_Prayer_&_Conclusion)
  + [Online Outro](#_Online_Outro_)

# Service Welcome Speaker: Worship Team

Good morning. Welcome to Parramatta Baptist church. I’m one of the worship leaders, and we're going to start this lovely day with praise and worship.

# Worship Singing

**Song:** Rise by Hillsong Worship

**Song:** Oh Lord You’re Beautiful by Keith Green

**Song:** What A Beautiful Name by Ben Fielding, Brooke Ligertwood

**Song:** Holy Forever by Brian Johnson, Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, Jenn Johnson, Phil Wickham

# Post-Worship Prayer Speaker: Stephen Bates

From the words of the psalmist, shout for joy to the Lord all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God, it is he who made us, and we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. So, enter his gates with thanksgiving, his courts with praise, and give thanks to him, and praise his name. For the Lord is good, and his love endures forever. His faithfulness continues through all generations. Father, we declare this to be true now as it was back then and into all eternity. In Christ's name, amen.

# Introduction, Announcements & Upcoming Events Speaker: Stephen Bates

Good morning, everyone, and welcome to Parramatta Baptist Church. Welcome also to those who are joining us online.

I do want to say a couple of things. First, happy Father's Day to any of the dads among us. And also, happy first day of spring, and if you are so inclined, you can do the pinch punch for the first of the month. Does anybody else do that in their family? Good. Not just us. There we go. We always do it very gently, though.

It is good to have you here today. If you are new to the life of Parramatta Baptist Church, I just want to speak to you for a couple of minutes. Firstly, every couple of months we have a newcomers’ gathering, and our next one is on Sunday the 22nd of September at 2:30 in the afternoon. It's an opportunity for you to gather with other people who are new to the life of Parramatta Baptist.

You can meet them, but you can also meet some of the longer-term members at Parramatta Baptist and some of the pastoral team. It's a time to ask questions, but also a time to hear a little bit about who we are as a community here. It usually finishes around 4:00PM, depending on how many conversations you want to continue with, and we have some afternoon tea as well. So if you'd like to come to that, we would love to invite you. Firstly, come and see myself or Kathy or Reuben, who will be up here preaching this morning. Come and talk to us. That would be great. Also at the back we do have a little post box type thing, and there are some cards you can write your details on and you can pop them in. That would be good.

The other thing I do want to encourage you to do, if you are new to the life of the church, and you're wondering how we communicate information, it's through our e-newsletter. It comes out at 12:30 on the dot every Friday. It just contains all the information and keeps you in touch with what's happening in the life of Parramatta Baptist Church. Again, if you haven't completed that, you can scan the QR code that's at that little post box at the back or fill out the card and pop it in there. That would be wonderful.

And sometimes new people go, “How come you don't take up offerings? Don't you need, like to pay your staff or anything?” Yes, we do. The way we do offerings is mainly online. But again, that little post box up the back is also an opportunity. You can put your offerings in there. There are also offering envelopes normally there as well, or on the foyer table. You're welcome to grab those.

# Prayer Speaker: Congregation Member

I want to thank the morning church family. During the week, as I was contemplating how on earth God would want to bless fathers, I just felt him say some words to me. Fathers, and of course, this can apply to fathers of all ranges, from new fathers to older grandfathers, to single parenthood, to those that are stepfathers, fostering and so on.

So I just want you to sit back and receive these words and acknowledge that the Lord is at hand for his words. I have known you in your mother's womb. I have carved you on the palm of my hand. I know your suffering. I will turn the hearts of your children to you and your hearts to your children. I know your struggles. I know your disappointments. I know your victories and your joy. Take my yoke upon you, and I will give you rest.

So, Heavenly Father, you do know us. You know us so well. I thank you for each and every father. I thank you for the journeys that you are leading them on. And I pray that you will take each father by the hand through the ups and downs. And I pray that you would descend with wisdom upon them in how to nurture and lead their children. I pray, Lord, that you will bless the fathers here with your father's heart, a heart that loves beyond love.

So come Holy Spirit and bless our fathers. Release from them the struggles and the pain and bring them into your presence of joy and peace. Amen.

# Introduction, Announcements & Upcoming Events Cont. Speaker: Stephen Bates

Just one thing I really want to encourage you to be praying about, and that is our church meeting next Sunday. So our church meeting happens at 12:15. That's after our next service. And as a church here, we seek to make decisions by listening to God's Holy Spirit. We seek to make decisions by listening to one another, and we seek to make decisions by praying, discerning what God would have us do.

Because this is not our church. It's not anyone's church other than Jesus Christ's church. So we need to seek his will and his glory in all that we do. With our church meetings, everyone in the church, anyone who is part of the church at all, is welcome to come along. But we do especially encourage members to come and, if you want to know what membership is and how to become members, just come and talk to any of the pastoral team. We'd love to speak to you about that.

There are two important aspect of the life of the church that we do want to discuss in more detail next week. And that is, firstly, the proposal that the diaconate will bring around staffing next year. So both discussion points really have to do with how we continue to facilitate growth in this place. One of them is around staffing. In terms of our current staffing ratio, we have six full time people for around 750-800 people. Plus, obviously, 300 volunteers. So that's a lot. That's a lot. And so there will be a proposal in terms of increasing staffing for beginning 2025.

And the other discussion will be around new steps for the ministry centre. And there'll be the usual finances and new members coming in as well. Now, my apology. We've been saying for the last two newsletters that we will be providing information to church members as soon as possible, and we are still wanting to do that. The delaying is not because there is any difference of opinion amongst the diaconate. The proposals are being brought and we are unanimous in what we're bringing. But we are also wanting to be really diligent and not have a sense of rushing and providing either inadequate information or incorrect information.

So we have continued to look at different things and have the conversations. So I sat down with someone from the Baptist Property Trust on Monday just to make sure that as a church, in the decisions and the proposals we're putting forward, that they are the right ones, also possible, allowable, legal, and all those important things. So that will still come to you ASAP, and I do promise that. But I would really love for as many people to come along on that meeting. We are not going to force any decisions to be made at next Sunday's meeting, because we do want there to be time for prayer and consideration brought into that.

But it is a really important meeting to actually continue the process of moving forward in that. And we will be seeking permission from the members to actually continue to move forward with both of those things. And just the other thing I do want to say, if you missed the video last week, around the new ministry centre, what it will look like, the reasons for it and what it will bring, I encourage you to hop on to our YouTube channel. You can watch it there or you can jump back to last week's service. It will be on there as well. And also, if you missed our prayer card that went out, again a few weeks ago, there are a few lying on chairs around the place. If you didn't get one of those, please take one. Read through it and pray. We would really appreciate that.

# Prayer Speaker: Stephen Bates

And so, father, we thank you for this morning. We thank you for this opportunity to be together and to worship you. And we would continue to ask, that as your people, we would seek to bring you glory in all that we do, and not just the things that we do, but the manner in which we do them.

Father, I pray that as a community, we would seek your wisdom and your will. That we would do the things that you call us to do, and that is to love others both within the family of faith, Lord, and also the community in which you've placed us. Lord, glory be to you. Amen.

# Bible Reading: 1 John 5: 1-5, 13-15, 20-21

***1 John 5: 1-5:*** *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.****2****This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.****3****In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,****4****for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.****5****Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.*

***1 John 5: 13-15:******13****I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.****14****This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.****15****And if we know that he hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of him.*

***1 John 5: 20-21:******20****We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.*

***21****Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.*

# Sermon: Learning To Walk With Confidence Speaker: Reuben

Hello, my name is Reuben, and I’m one of the pastors here, and being a borderline Gen-X borderline millennial kind of sums me up. I’ve always been in-between. Never quite fit in. And so when I first saw the theme that I was going to preach, which was confidence, I had all these ideas about my own journey of learning about confidence. It's been quite a journey.

But I felt really challenged as I went deeper into the word, that it's going to look a lot different to the way I usually preach, because I've never felt like I really fit in anywhere. There's a people pleasing side of me. I try to entertain, and I try to entertain the grey areas because that's where people could actually agree with you, where things are optional. If you don't like this, it's okay. If you don't like that, that's also okay. And that's a real people pleasing element to my personality. Maybe the culture being Asian, very diplomatic. I won't really say what I'm thinking. You won't know. So there's a bit of that, but it's mainly my personality.

But this morning it's going to be black and white I'm afraid, and we're going to talk about learning to walk in confidence. So, there's a lot I could talk about my insecurities, but it's actually not going to be about that. If you want to talk about insecurities, let's have a chat about that later, but not now.

But really, this is the most challenged I've been when coming across a passage of scripture. And the thing that we are confident really is that we are children of God. If you've been around for the last few weeks, you’ll have seen and have been part of our deep dive into the book of 1 John. And so the first section of what I'm going to talk about, out of three sections, is ‘Say it again?’

Now, I did a word cloud for the book of 1 John. So all the words in 1 John, certain words do stand out. Love has been repeated many times. If you didn't get that yet, the book of 1 John really is about the love of God, who sent his son that we may know him. So there are certain words that really stick out. And then from 1 John five that I'm going to talk about today, apart from the words ‘God’ and ‘son’, the words ‘know’ and ‘testimony’ really stand out.

And so this word on the screen in Greek, if any of you read Greek, is ‘martyreo’. And what it means is ‘testify.’ ‘Testify’ in its Greek form is repeated 17 times in 1 John. That's quite a lot. Now, why would that word have to be repeated that many times? It's because truth needs to cut through the fog of different ideas and lies.

In John 21, Jesus asked Peter, “Do you love me? Do you love me? Do you love me?”, three times. And two weeks ago, Andrew had these words mentioned to him, and it was the third time that the reality or the realisation that God truly loved him really went into his heart and changed his life forever.

So the question is, why do we need repetition? What's so much for something to be said that many times? As a parent, things do not happen the first time or the second time, right? We do rely on repetition. And Kathy that suggested last week, some of us are slow learners. That's true. It's also the fact that it's really, really important. The age that we live in feels a bit like a fog, where it's quite reactive. We're always on the back foot, like a pandemic comes up and we're not prepared for it. This happens, that happens. That's a new crime, a spree of crime. It's a new virus. There's a new viral sensation online.

But the whole context of that is that it's never enough. And it keeps shifting politically. You don't know who to trust. And so I went to AI, and I asked it to give me a picture of a confident man. And this is what came up, right? A strong jawline, brooding face, professional gear. Probably works out a lot, works in the CBD. So I thought, let's try the image of a woman. This is what we're teaching the computers, by the way. There is there is some reality to that. And this is what we think a confident woman looks like; also very brooding, quite serious.

I don't think she gets humour. I don't know. That's a problem. That's confidence. Right. And what's behind those images, basically, are lies that I have bought for most of my life. And this is where it's really glaring. We rely on ourselves, our skills. If we knew just a bit more, if we had more information and ability, maybe someone might look up to us if we were physically strong.

That's what an ideal life looks like. Have you watched YouTube? Everyone's trying to show the ideal day in the life of someone that you're not, right? Your looks from an early age that can develop your psychology of what it means to be chosen, what it means to be a favourite. And that can really shape the way you live your life, your career. Is that your identity? Doing something important, doing something that you love, having more likes on social media, people, the popularity of men? And of course, let's not forget wealth, because if you're wealthy, you don't have to worry about anything, right? Recession, inflation, increasing rents, increasing fuel prices. Nah, I’ve got it sorted. I'm going to retire at 30. Wealth confidence. Predictability.

Right before we go out for a meal somewhere that we've never driven before, I'll be studying Google Maps because I want as much predictability as I as I can get. That's the way I approach Google. When I'm buying something, I'm probably going to know about every other product that I don't need, or every other every choice that I'm not going to make, just to justify that one, because I want to know. And that analysis can lead to paralysis, because I spent too much time on my weather app, wanting to know whether the rain clouds are coming.

We want trustworthy brands. Why? You know, why did people only buy Toyotas? Why do we take out insurance for a rainy day in case something happens? We have technology to tell us what time of the day to wake up, when our bills are due, or to pay our bills for us, and that’s leading towards AI. So can you see between the self and our need to find trust in things, it's quite different to what God actually has in mind. And that's cutting me.

So back to the word ‘martyreo’, which is where the word ‘martyr’ comes from, from telling the truth over and over. So I want to talk about when someone testifies the truth, what actually needs to happen for it to take root in our hearts? The first thing to testify is that we need to hear the word, read it, or have it preached to us. And the next thing is then to believe what it says. “Jesus loves you. I love you.” That goes into our hearts, and we start to feel something. However, if we don't live that way, we forget that very soon and we start trusting in technology or the likes of people online. But it's only when we start to live it out in action do we truly know that that is our reality.

So from hearing, we don't just hear and immediately know and are changed forever, there is a process that we all go through. And this has actually really challenged me. And the challenges are coming up soon. by the way. And so why is the word testify repeated 17 times? It's because of this sinking sand walking through a fog. We need to have absolute clarity on what we are standing on, that we will never be shaken.

So the message today, there's no compromise. It's there's no grey area, I'm afraid, in this one. As much as I want to entertain, you know, I can't. So this next section is about our confidence and what we have confidence in. All right, I'm going to read 1 John 5: 6-10*. ‘This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the spirit who testifies,*’ (I've highlighted ‘testify’ in just this short section), *‘because the spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify; the spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. We accept human testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God which he has given about His Son. Whoever believes the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son.’*

And so the first thing that we have confidence in is the evidence that Jesus is Lord. And so if we examine this passage, the first thing it talks about is that Jesus came by water and this is baptism, the baptism of Jesus. When he was baptised by John the Baptist, a voice came from heaven saying, this is my son, in whom I am well pleased. It’s phenomenal. And Jesus did not have to be baptised, but he identified with us as sinners and went through that suffering, and you know that image of the spirit descending upon him like a dove. That's why the Holy Spirit is often represented as a dove. That happened here.

And the next example, we sang it earlier, ‘that the veil tore before you.’ And when Jesus was crucified, when he died, complete darkness took over at midday for about three hours. In the great temple in Jerusalem, there was a veil that separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple. This veil was an embroidered curtain that was extremely tall, really thick and impossible to tear by human hands. And it was split in two when the earth shook. That was one of the, major signs that happened at Jesus’ death, so much so that a centurion who was standing near to him said that ‘surely that is the Son of God.’

The person who wrote this letter, John, was actually a witness of Jesus, coming back from death. And yet he says that the testimony of God through his spirit is greater than any human testimony. If I've seen someone come back from the dead, I would think my word would be the most important version of the truth. But John insists that the testimony of God through his Spirit in us is actually stronger than a human witness.

So when God's Spirit is in us, there are things that he will tell you that are true, that are stronger than a word or an eyewitness account. That blows my mind. And so we have confidence in the evidence that Jesus is Lord, that the Lord of heaven and earth, the creator of the universe, the God who defeated the power of death in human form and came back and was resurrected, who gave us his Holy Spirit. He lives in us. And I had to stop. I've been a Christian my whole life and just had to rethink, ‘Am I living with the Spirit of God in me? Is that the same God?’ I'm pretty sure it's a very different reality.

Okay, so we're going on to the second point. I’m going to read from 1 John 5: 11-13*, ‘And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.’*

And so the next thing that we have confidence in is that God has given us eternal life. The word for life in Greek is ‘zoe’, and it's mentioned 13 times in 1 John. In 1 John 5, it's mentioned 7 times, eternal life. Okay, on the screen are just a whole bunch of verses about God giving us eternal life. Again, my mind is going, ‘am I living in a way that reflects the fact that I have been given eternal life?’ Verse after verse, I just wanted to show visually there's a lot of text on that slide.

And not only have we been given eternal life, it says there, ‘So that you may know that you *have* eternal life.’ This is in the present tense, in that it’s an invitation to participate in the blessed eternal life with Jesus, in the union with Jesus, right now. What does that look like? Many of us are such amateurs in this, even though we've been given such a beautiful gift.

And John Stott says that this eternal life can only be found in God's Son and no one else. Black and white issue. Eternal life only comes from Jesus Christ, and no one else. There's not ‘all paths lead to God.’ Absolutely not. This is an uncompromising truth. This is the foundation of our faith. I've never had to preach it this way before. It doesn't please everybody. But this is the truth. And it's for *now.* We are invited into to participate in this through union in Christ, right? The life that was the light of all mankind, and through Jesus we have this eternal life.

So the question constantly is, ‘why have I been living in a different way from having this eternal perspective that all my actions have?’ Could they have an eternal consequence? Are the things that I'm pouring my time into, do they have eternal value?’ That rocked me.

So moving on to point three. This is the confidence that we have. So, the whole background of what we've been talking about is the foundation leading up to this point, that says, *‘This is the confidence that we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we ask of him.’* And so the third confidence that we have is that God answers prayer. The first was that we have confidence in the evidence that Jesus is Lord, that he has defeated sin. And the next thing is that he has given us eternal life.

Now, the third thing that we have confidence in is that God answers prayer. If we abide in Jesus, right, and his words abide in us, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. Twice in the book of John, it's like we've been given a blank check. Are we reflecting on the fact that we've been given the most amazing gift you could be given? Or are we worried about the future?

And it does say that we ask ‘according to God's will.’ We need to know his will when we start asking out of our own selfish ambition or selfish desires. We do not receive because we ask with the wrong motives. And that's what it says in James 4:3. But not only that does God answer our prayers, he fills us with joy, that our joy will be complete when we ask in his name. When you delight in the Lord, he will give you the desires of your heart. Why have I not been more excited?

So three things to be confident of. Jesus is Lord. The evidence is so clear he has given us eternal life, and anything that we ask from him, he will give to us. So this is part three, the invitation that we are children of God. We are in Christ. ‘Who is it that overcomes the world? This was read earlier on. Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God who lives in us, right? I guess for everyone in the room, I think the context of this is that if we have any influence over people, whether your father or not, we want them to have an unshaken confidence that will not be brought about by unpredictability and the way disasters in life can happen.

We want this for all that we love, so we need to know for a fact that we are in Christ, that the Son of God, the creator of Lord of heaven and earth, Lord of all, lives in us, the true God. The next thing is that we live with eternity in mind. So in verse 18, it reminds us that for anyone who is in God, the power of sin has been broken. You are no longer a slave to the cycle of sin, but that doesn't mean we automatically stop sinning. But we are not trapped by it any longer, because the Holy Spirit lives in us and he has broken the power of sin of our lives. And so when it comes to things that we spend our time and our money and our energy on, are they things of eternal value? Or are they things that never satisfy and that will just require infinite rope?

And the last thing is that when we know God's will, we will know his power. The whole chapter ends with this verse that says, *‘Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.’* Given this context, I would suggest that anything that takes your trust off God can become an idol. Anything that you trust in. And when we trust in those things, God's will is a bit less clear, because our whole attention is based on the stock market, on how a people's reaction to us will be, whether we get their approval or not.

That is not the will of God. Keeping our eyes on him and our trust in him is how we know God's will. And if you believe this, that he will give to you anything you ask through his will. You will know his power, that God can transform impossible situations.

We are children of God. I think that's how the whole chapter started. We have the Lord of heaven and earth living in us, the Son of God living in us. If we live with an eternal perspective and we align ourselves to God's will, anything that we ask in his name will be granted to us.

These three things have really rocked my week. All the lead up to this. Earlier this week I had a picture of a rag, and I knew in that picture the rag was myself. It was being dipped in kerosene, ready to be set on fire, and in my heart, I was praying, ‘God, can you just help me conserve my energy? I've got three services today. I've got 8:45, 10:45, 5:30. So just burn me up in equal portions of 33.33%.’ And immediately, I got corrected. When God is the one soaking you in his spirit, you will never stop burning for him. You don't have to portion out and ration your resources when he's empowering you. And I know that's not just for me. For those of us who are conserving our resources, our energy, what we think about our finances, our capacity, our cares and our worries. I think that's a real invitation to dip yourself in God's spirit, that to let that be your constant source of confidence, and you will never run out.

So can I invite everyone to just close your eyes right now? The first thing I want to ask everyone in the room, ‘do you have absolute confidence that the Lord of heaven and earth? That same God that we know about, that we've heard about, that we might believe in, does that translate into the way that we live to really, really know in your heart?’ Now, this is not to draw attention to anyone. I'm not going to do anything about it. But I want you to raise your hand with all eyes closed because it's your body just acknowledging and asking God, ‘God, I want more of that revelation of who you are in my life.’

Is there anyone who would dare to raise their hand? Okay, this is between you and God. I'm not going to make you come up to the front. So, God, we just want to know you in a way that we have not before, that hasn't been reflected yet in our lives, that you have all of it, have all of our hearts, and Lord, our lives.

Now, the second part of it is the perspective of eternal life. I just want to ask in the room, Who has not lived out with an eternal perspective, where you're still trapped in sin, or you think you're trapped in sin when actually you've been given that blank check of eternal life?’ I just want to ask you to raise your hand again, between you and God. All eyes closed, with an eternal perspective that I choose not to worry about the things that surround me that are temporary, but the things that are everlasting. I choose to see things the way that you see things. I want to live rightly with an eternal perspective.

Lord, won't you help us and open our eyes, that we may see and understand what it means to have union in you right now, and to be part of this blessing of eternal life? That by living in God's will, that whatever we pray for, anything that we pray for, he will grant. And so I think this is for all of us right now, actually, This is between you and God. It's not for me. If they are idols in your life that you trust more than God, I just want you to raise your hand between you and him. And to surrender that if you really want to be in his will.

So, Lord, we offer to you things that are temporal that we've put our trust in. Won't you restore your place in our lives? That we will see you rightly, that we will live in a way that you intended? That we will know your power? Because you love us so deeply and that we truly are your children. And so, Lord, I just pray this morning that you'll help all of us to help others around us to also realise this. The reality that we have a God in whom we trust, that cannot be shaken, will never let us down.

And if you do not know this God that I'm talking about, I want to invite you. At the end of the service, we'll have people up the front who will be more than happy to pray with you, because we will not be shaken in the face of any uncertainty. So in Jesus’ name, we just give you all the glory. Thank you, Lord, for your uncompromising word of truth. We love you, Lord. Amen.

# Worship Singing

**Song:** Good Good Father by Anthony Brown, Pat Barrett

# Prayer & Conclusion Speaker: Stephen Bates

Thank you so much. Reuben, I love the authenticity of your journey in that, as well as the truth from scripture. Beautifully put together. And I just want to repeat his invitation to come for prayer. Can I also encourage you that you don't have to come down the front for prayer? There are people sitting around you who you know and trust and whatnot this morning. Just spend time and just maybe share with each other, either over morning tea or just where you're sitting, and just pray for one another.

They're just such key things to have confidence, you know, our confidence that we are in Christ, our confidence that we have eternal life, and the confidence that above all, we can trust God. Praying to him, seeking his will, not our own, and asking for anything in prayer. That is such key thing. So, Lord, as we go today, we go in the confidence of those three things, that you know us and you love us, and you have brought us into Christ, Lord, that we have an eternity to live with you.

And so let's start living that now. And, Lord, may our hearts and our minds be set on your will, your purposes, the things of above. Let's not allow other things to become front and centre, but always, always Jesus Christ the Lord. We pray this in his name. Amen. Bless you.

# Online Outro Speaker: Kathy Bates

Hey, thank you for joining us online today. We pray that you have been blessed and encouraged. And if there is something from today that you would like us to pray into with you, don't hesitate to let us know.

If we haven't met you, we'd love to hear from you. And you also welcome to come and join us in person as well. To know more about our church, please go to our church website and you can also find more details about who we are through our newsletter. And you can subscribe to that through our website as well.

God bless you and may you have a great week.

\*Names have been changed to protect privacy.