



24th November 2019

### Passionately Pursue Joy

If I say the words “**Don’t worry, be happy**” you probably start humming the song that Bobby McFerrin wrote. I looked up the lyrics and, as catchy as the tune is, the words are surprisingly empty. It’s so easy to tell others to stop worrying and just be happy but how many of us can just turn off the worrying and skip through the day with a smile. Bobby McFerrin even suggests that when you can’t pay your rent or don’t have any cash or anywhere to sleep at night, just smile and be happy! Really?! Can we really just “be happy” when life is actually falling apart?

In the office this week we’ve been reflecting on Philippians 4:4-7, where Paul writes “**be anxious for nothing.**” Paul sounds a little like Bobby McFerrin BUT what Paul adds in this short passage is the reality of what we can do instead of worrying.

He starts with helping us change our focus. Instead of worrying about our circumstance he suggests we “**rejoice in the Lord.**” Joy starts with rejoicing in something that is worth being joyful about - and that’s Jesus! If anything could cause us to rejoice it’s Jesus and what He’s done for us.

He then instructs us to be known for our “**gentleness.**” In the midst of anxiety it’s often our gentleness that is first to disappear as we fight for what we need. Fighting never brings joy or happiness so instead of fighting the Christian is to be known for gentleness.

We are then encouraged to take our worries to the One who can actually do something about them. Bring your worries to God in prayer, with an attitude of gratefulness. When we start with “**being thankful**” our focus changes and our spirits are lifted.

There’s one last phrase that stood out to us as we reflected this week. The promise is that, in the midst of our anxiousness, when we rejoice in Him, respond to others with gentleness and pray to Him with thankfulness, “**THE LORD IS NEAR.**” What could bring more joy than knowing that He is present right there with us in the middle of our worry?

As you walk through this week, be encouraged - **the Lord is near!**

We acknowledge that the land we meet on is the traditional lands for the Kurna people.

### CREATE

**After School Kid’s Club**  
Tuesday’s 3.30-5.30pm  
@ Playford Uniting Church  
Call Nick: 0402 808 744

### LITTLE BUZZ PLAYGROUP

Thursday’s 9.30-11am  
@ Playford Uniting Church

### PLAYFORD CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Playford UC will be having a float in the Pageant on Saturday 30th November. Wrapped lollies or Candy Canes to give away along the Pageant Route can be donated and dropped off at the office.  
Thank you.

### A NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Women’s Christmas Event  
Friday 6th Dec. 7pm @ Playford UC  
Tickets - \$10 from  
<https://www.trybooking.com/BGWRO>  
Or contact Felicity at  
felicityrouse@gmail.com

### UPCOMING SERVICES

**Sunday Nov 24th : Craig Bailey**  
Passionately Pursue Joy - Philippians

**Sunday Dec 1st : Pete Riggs**  
8<sup>th</sup> Birthday & Kids Christmas Celebration

**Sunday Dec 8th : Ken Wright**  
Good News

### Message from November 17th

By Craig McGlone

“*Passionately Pursue Joy*” - Phil. 4:8-9

or go to <http://playford.ucasa.org.au/podcasts/>

## Playford Uniting Church

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A people **Awakened** by the Spirit, **Moving** in our Communities, **Cultivating** Hope and **Transforming** Futures.