



Pineland  
Baptist Church

Why We're  
Still Here



## **1. Burlington: Beautiful. But...?**

Burlington is beautiful.

We're surrounded by trails and trees, culture and coffee shops. We enjoy good schools, safe streets, and strong services. People move here for a reason. Life works.

And yet, underneath all that works, something often feels like it's missing.

We have more ways to connect than ever before, but many still feel isolated. We have more options, but less clarity. We've made progress, but lost peace. Even in a city like ours, with so much going for it, many quietly wonder:

Is this all there is?

That's where the Christian story enters. Not with a pat answer, or a guilt trip, but with a person. A King. A vision of life that is richer, deeper, more human than the one we've been sold.

We're not here to add noise, rules, or pressure. We're here because we believe Jesus is still good news, for real people, right now.

So, if you're questioning, curious, or just open to a different perspective, this booklet is for you.

Not everything here will land with you. But we hope something will. A phrase. A thought. A possibility that life might be more than success, security, and survival.

Because we believe it is. And that's why we're still here.



## 2. The Christ We Proclaim

At the center of Christianity is not a rulebook, a ritual, or a political agenda, but a person.

Jesus of Nazareth is the most misunderstood figure in history. Some think of Him as a wandering teacher with decent moral advice. Others see Him as a symbol of oppression, weaponized by institutions. Others still admire Him from a distance, like a painting you'd never hang in your own home: beautiful, but irrelevant.

But what if Jesus is more than an idea, more than an influencer, more than a story?

What if He's alive?

Christians believe that Jesus is the Son of God, not symbolically, but historically, really, and eternally. We believe He entered the world in flesh and blood, born into poverty, raised in obscurity, and executed unjustly, not as a tragic accident of politics, but on purpose. To rescue, redeem, and reign.

As Dorothy Sayers once wrote,

*“The people who hanged Christ never, to do them justice, accused Him of being a bore, on the contrary; they thought Him too dynamic to be safe. It has been left for later generations to muffle up that shattering personality.”*

Jesus healed the sick. He comforted the broken. He confronted hypocrisy. He taught with authority that electrified peasants and enraged elites. He claimed to forgive sins, a staggering assertion unless He was God. And He said He would die and rise again, not as metaphor, but as history. And then He did.

This isn't just religion. It's news.

At its heart, Christianity is not advice about how to live. It's an announcement about what God has done. That the Creator of all things stepped into history, bore the full weight of sin (our rebellion against God's design for life) and death, and walked out of the grave.

Jesus didn't come to create a private spiritual path for the religiously inclined. He came to announce a kingdom, a new reign that doesn't crush, but heals. A kingdom where mercy triumphs over vengeance, where the humble are lifted up, where sinners are welcomed home and changed. His crown was made of thorns before it was of glory.

And the church? It exists not to dominate the world, but to proclaim and embody that kingdom. We don't gather to escape the world, but to remember the true King, and then go out into the world as His ambassadors.

Our message is not: "Be better." It's not: "Try harder." It's: "Behold your King."

And what does Burlington need? Not more noise. Not more outrage. Not more shallow optimism. We need truth that humbles us, grace that restores us, and hope that won't decay. That's what Jesus offers.

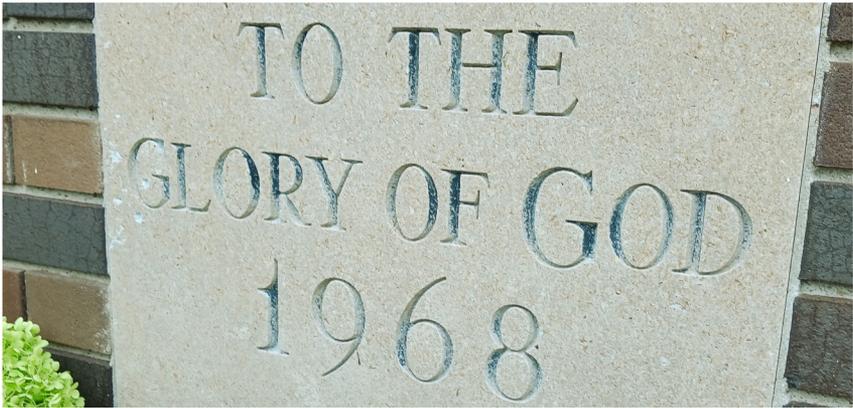
He isn't asking for blind faith. His life invites investigation. His words demand attention. His resurrection, if true, changes everything. As the Apostle Paul said, "*If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile... But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead*" (1 Corinthians 15:17, 20).

You don't need to sort out your life before coming to Him. In fact, the whole point is that you can't.

He invites the weary. The skeptic. The addict. The moral failure. The deeply tired. He came not for the well, but for the sick, not for the righteous, but for sinners.

We're still here because Jesus is still the Christ (the chosen one of God)—still risen, still reigning, still calling people to Himself. Not to crush them, but to forgive and free them. And to send them back into the world as carriers of His mercy and messengers of His kingdom.

This is the Christ we proclaim, and He is worth knowing.



### 3. The Church: An Embassy of the Kingdom

The word *church* brings up all kinds of feelings.

Some think of quiet reverence and potluck suppers. Others remember boredom, hurt, or hypocrisy, a place where they felt unseen, judged, or burned out. For many, the church conjures images of a fading institution: stained glass, worn pews, and whispers of a more religious past.

But when we speak of the church, we're talking about something far more alive. Something rooted, radiant, and real.

The church is not a club for the good, a stage for the gifted, or a museum for the nostalgic. It is, as Scripture calls it, "*the pillar and foundation of the truth*" (1 Timothy 3:15). It's the household of God. And in a world of uprooted lives and shifting foundations, that matters more than ever.

We see the church as an embassy, an outpost of another Kingdom, planted in the soil of this world.

An embassy is not the homeland. But it is a visible sign of the homeland's values, language, and way of life. It exists to represent the reign of its King. That's what we aim to be here in Burlington: a local sign of the global Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Not the whole Kingdom, but a witness to it. A little window into what life looks like under the gracious rule of Christ.

And that's not just poetry. It's practice.

So, what does that look like?

It looks like liturgy, not as empty routine, but as a rhythm of renewal. We gather each Sunday not to be entertained, but to be re-centred. We hear God's Word, confess our sins, receive His pardon, sing together, pray for the world, and come to the Lord's Table. Every part of the service is meant to reshape our lives. In a world that constantly deforms us—by noise, hurry, fear, and self-absorption—the church exists to *re-form* us in Christ.

As James K.A. Smith writes,

*“We become what we worship because we worship what we love.”*

It looks like community, not carefully crafted perfection, but ordinary people learning to love each other, making mistakes along the way, and growing from them. We eat together. We weep and rejoice together. We raise our kids with each other's help. We wrestle with Scripture, forgive sins, share burdens, and grow slowly, sometimes painfully, into maturity. It's not Instagrammable. But it's real.

It looks like mercy, not as a PR move, but as a posture. From ESL classes to care for the foreigner, to our Sunshine Group to care for our shut-ins, from walking with young moms to providing meals for the struggling, we believe Christian faith must take flesh. If it doesn't touch the margins, it isn't shaped by Jesus.

And it looks like teaching, not pop psychology or moralism, but Scripture opened and explained with reverence and care. The Bible is not our backdrop; it's our lifeline. Week after week, we preach it not because it's trendy, but because it's true, and because it reveals the glory of Christ.

Of course, no church does all of this perfectly. We don't either. But we're not trying to build a brand or recreate nostalgia. We're trying to be a people who point to the King.

We're still here because Christ's Kingdom has not ended. His church has outlasted empires and ideologies. And until He returns, the church remains, as a preview, a promise, and a people who say with our lives: *there's another way to be human.*

You don't need to understand it all to come. You don't need to agree with everything to visit. You're invited to step inside and see, not just what we do, but who we follow.



**You might be wondering: What’s it like to walk into our church on a Sunday morning?**

You won’t find flashing lights or fog machines. But you will find something much older, simpler, and, we believe, far more powerful. We could call it covenant-renewal worship.

That might sound complex, but it’s not. It’s a simple, historic pattern of worship rooted in Scripture—one that helps us remember who God is, who we are, and how we live in light of His grace. Week by week, we retell the gospel story through our order of worship. We don’t reinvent church every Sunday. We return to the rhythm that forms us into a faithful, grateful people.

Here’s what that rhythm looks like:

**1. Call to Worship**  We don’t start with ourselves. God gets the first word. He calls us, weary, distracted, skeptical, hopeful, to draw near. We begin with His welcome, not our worthiness. “Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden,” Jesus says (Matthew 11:28). So, we do.

**2. Confession of Sin**  We respond to God’s holiness with humility. Together, we acknowledge our failures, not as a ritual of shame, but as a rhythm of honesty. In a culture of pretending and posturing, the church is a place to be real: about our sin, our sorrow, our need. *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us...”* (1 John 1:9)

**3. Assurance of Pardon**  This is the beating heart of worship: good news. We don’t stay in guilt. We hear afresh the promise that, in Christ, we are forgiven. Fully. Freely. Forever. Whether you’re hearing it for the first time or the thousandth, the cross is not old news—it’s our lifeline.

**4. Singing and Scripture**  We sing, not to perform, but to proclaim. Our music is theologically rich, emotionally honest, and meant to lift our eyes beyond ourselves. And we read the Bible out loud, whole passages, not just soundbites, because we believe God speaks through His Word, and we want to listen together.

**5. Preaching**  We open the Scriptures and seek to understand what God has said, what it means today, and how it leads us to Christ. Preaching isn't just instruction, it's encounter. We believe God meets us through His Word, confronting our illusions, comforting our sorrows, and calling us to Himself.

As Martin Luther said:

*“When the Word is preached, the voice of God is heard.”*

**6. The Lord's Table**  We regularly eat bread and drink from the cup, not as empty symbolism, but as a real act of communion with the risen Christ. This is how Jesus told us to remember His death, by receiving it with our hands and tasting it with our mouths. The Table is for sinners made saints by grace.

**7. Commission**  Worship doesn't end with a benediction; it continues in your life. We are sent out, blessed and burdened with good news, into our neighbourhoods, schools, offices, and homes. We are ordinary people with an extraordinary Saviour, called to love, serve, and shine in Burlington and beyond.

This rhythm doesn't just fill a Sunday. It reshapes a life.

You don't need to dress a certain way, speak a certain way, or already believe what we believe. You're welcome to come and listen. To observe. To ask questions. To belong before you believe.

We meet each week to remember the truth: that God has spoken, grace has come, and Jesus is alive. And that changes everything.

You're invited to see it for yourself.





## 4. What We're Building, and Why

We live in a city of planners.

Zoning laws, heritage designations, traffic studies, park renewals, Burlington is always thinking ahead. There's a quiet pride here in making things work: good schools, clean neighbourhoods, safe streets. If you judge a place by order and efficiency, our city is a model.

But what are we building that lasts longer than the next tax cycle?

What are we cultivating beyond systems and square footage?

What are we laying down, spiritually, relationally, culturally, that will still matter in a hundred years?

That's the question we keep asking as a church.

We're not here to condemn the city's efforts. We're grateful for them. But we also want to complement them, by building what only the church can build: whole people. Whole households. A culture of grace. A community of truth and love. A public witness to the Kingdom of Christ.

At our church, we're not just holding services—we're building something, slowly, intentionally, and in full view of our neighbours. Not monuments. Not programs. But lives. A counter-testimony to the hurry, fear, distraction, and loneliness that quietly eat away at the good life we think we've built.

Here's some of what we're working on:

## 1. Strong Homes and Faithful Fathers



The renewal of a city begins in its households. And at the heart of a healthy home is a father who loves like Christ, not with bravado or harshness, but with humility, presence, and courage.

In a culture where fatherhood is often mocked or missing, we're calling men to recover their God-given role: to take spiritual responsibility for their families, to love their wives sacrificially, to bless their children intentionally, and to live as servant-leaders in the home and in the church.

As G.K. Chesterton once put it:

*“The business of the home is nothing less than the shaping of the bodies and souls of humanity.”*

## 2. Hospitable Tables and Open Doors



In an age of locked screens and private lives, hospitality is radical. We believe the table is one of the most powerful places in the world. When you share a meal, you share more than food, you open a door to dignity, conversation, and connection. This isn't Martha Stewart hospitality. This is kingdom hospitality: imperfect meals, full hearts, room at the table.

We are reclaiming this ancient practice, not just as a side ministry, but as a lifestyle. Our homes are not bunkers. We want them to be outposts of welcome.

The early church didn't grow because of marketing. It grew because people broke bread, prayed together, and invited strangers into their lives. We're just trying to do the same.

### 3. A Vision of Education Rooted in Truth

Our kids are growing up in a world of carefully crafted identities, algorithmic learning, and moral confusion. In such a world, education cannot be neutral.

We believe children need more than information—they need *formation*. That means helping families think deeply and biblically about how to raise children who know who they are, where they come from, and what’s true.

We support parents in this high calling, through discipleship, reading groups, encouragement for public and home educators, and, where possible, encouraging and enabling home-school co-ops.

We are raising children not just to navigate the world, but to love the Lord with heart, soul, mind, and strength (Deuteronomy 6:5–7).



### 4. A Care for the Weak That Doesn’t Signal, but Serves

Ours is a city of hidden need.

Behind the politeness and prosperity are families in crisis, seniors in isolation, single moms stretched thin, refugees navigating a new world, and teens aching for attention in a world of digital noise.

We don’t exist to perform virtue. We exist to serve. Jesus touched lepers and wept with the grieving. We believe His church should do the same.

That’s why we run ESL classes, provide meals and visits for the vulnerable, and come alongside those who feel forgotten. Not as a project, but as a people. Not as a photo-op, but as a way of life.

## 5. A Long Obedience in the Same Direction

We're not trying to be trendy. We're not trying to go viral. We're not trying to impress anyone.

We're trying to be faithful.

Eugene Peterson called it *a long obedience in the same direction*. That's our aim: to show up, serve well, and stay put. To plant trees we may never sit under. To disciple people who will disciple others. To be the kind of church that can bury our saints, baptize their grandchildren, and still be bearing fruit long after the world has forgotten our name.

We're building not for applause, but for endurance.

Jesus said His people are like salt, preserving what's good. Like light, illuminating what's true. Like leaven, quietly transforming what is heavy and inert.

That's what we want to be in Burlington: a faithful, hopeful, distinctly Christian presence. Not flashy, not perfect—but real.

We're still here, not because we're chasing influence, but because we're following Jesus. And we believe His Kingdom is not just for the next world, but for the good of this one.





## 5. How to Join the Conversation

If you've made it this far, thank you!

Reading a booklet like this, especially in a time where most conversations are short, suspicious, or cynical, is no small thing. Whether you're reading with interest, hesitation, curiosity, or critique, we're genuinely glad you've taken the time.

You don't have to agree with us to be welcome among us.

We're not looking for perfect people, religious experts, or instant converts. We're simply extending an invitation, to consider, to question, and maybe even to hope.

We believe that doubt isn't the opposite of faith, indifference is. And Jesus never turned away the honest skeptic. He welcomed the confused, the ashamed, the resistant, and the curious. What He offered wasn't pressure, but presence. Not manipulation, but mercy. He invited people to come close enough to see for themselves.

We aim to do the same.

This isn't about joining a religion or signing up for something you don't believe in. It's about encountering a person, Jesus Christ, who changes lives, heals wounds, forgives sins, and gives meaning that holds, even when everything else falls apart.

If anything in these pages has stirred your curiosity, unsettled an assumption, or awakened a desire, here are a few simple, no-pressure ways to take a next step:

## **Come on a Sunday**

There's no secret handshake. No dress code. No judgment. Just a group of ordinary people gathering to hear good news, sing with joy, confess our need, and meet Jesus in Word and Table.

You won't be singled out or made to speak. But you will be welcomed, not because you fit in, but because God's grace is for people like us: needy, searching, unfinished.

## **Join a Christianity Explored Course**

Every so often, we host a course called Christianity Explored where anyone can bring real questions, about the Bible, faith, doubt, ethics, or life in general. You don't need to know the lingo. There's no stage, no pressure, and no shaming. Just honest dialogue in a warm setting.

Whether you're wrestling with belief, trying to recover from past church hurt, or just curious about how Christians think, these nights are a good place to listen, learn, and ask.

## **Share a Meal**

Some of the best conversations don't happen in pews, they happen around tables.

We regularly open our homes for meals with newcomers. It's not a bait-and-switch. It's not a lecture. It's just good food, shared stories, and a place to be human together.

You're welcome to join one. No strings. No scripts. Just a seat at the table.



## Message Us Privately

Not ready to visit yet? That's okay. Sometimes the best way to begin is quietly, online, through a question, a doubt, or a story. If you want to talk to a pastor, ask something anonymously, or share a burden, our inbox is always open. You'll get a real response from a real person. No chatbot. No filter. Just care.

We're still here in Burlington, not because we think we're better, but because we believe Jesus is still good. Still true. Still healing lives. Still welcoming the weary. Still building His Kingdom in quiet, local ways through churches like ours.

And we believe you are not beyond His welcome.

So come and see. Ask your questions. Share a meal. Sit in the back. Or just say hello.

The invisible weight you've been carrying isn't proof that something is wrong with you... but a signal that you're made for more.

You're not alone.

And you're always welcome here.

## About Us:

### Pineland Baptist Church

A Baptist church in the heart of Burlington  
Gathering every Sunday at 10:00 am

**Location:** 5100 New Street, Burlington, ON L7L 1V1

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## You're Welcome Here

Whether you're exploring faith, returning after time away, or looking for a church home, we invite you to join us.

Come as you are—bring your questions, your story, and your curiosity.