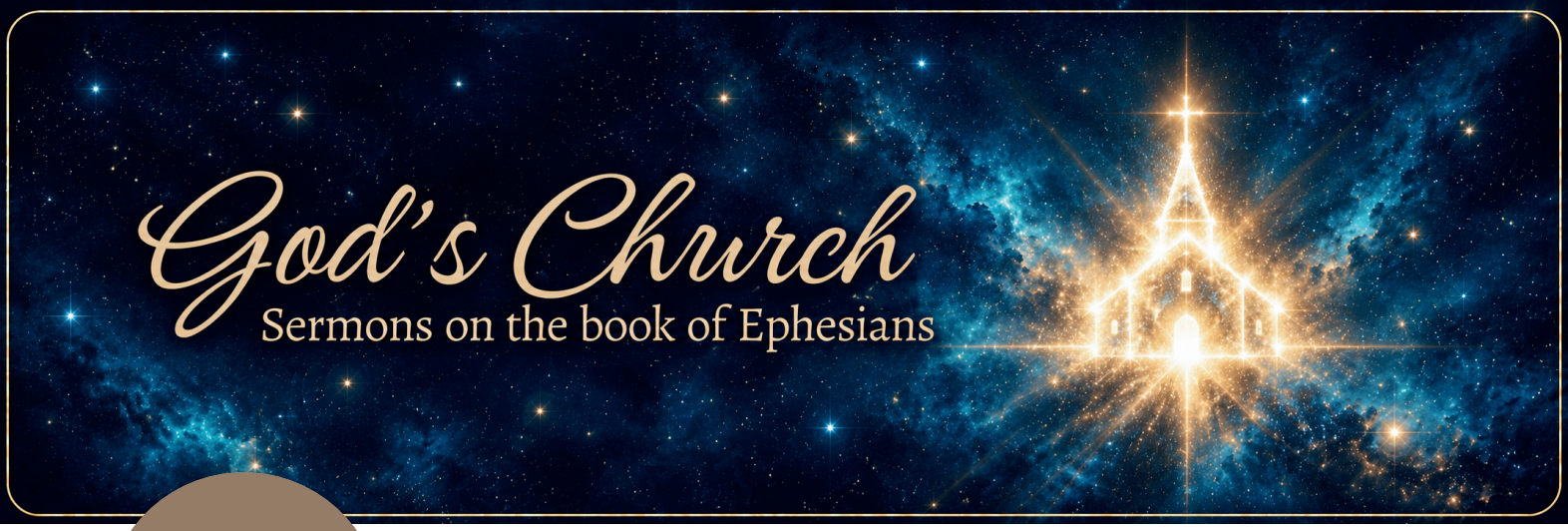


Week 5

Sunday 8 November 2026

Welcome to St Stephen's! It's wonderful to have you with us today, especially family and friends joining us for the baptism of Percy Webster.

Connect Card

Baptism is a wonderful reminder of God's love and grace. It points us to the promises of God in Jesus and our need for the forgiveness and new life that only he can give. Today in Ephesians, we come to one of the most beautiful prayers in the Bible. Paul prays that Christians would grasp just how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.

We can know that God loves us without fully appreciating how extraordinary that love really is. Yet Paul wants us to be so deeply rooted in Christ's love that it transforms how we live and how we love others.

Our prayer today is that we would all grow in knowing this wonderful love, and that Percy too would come to know and trust Jesus as his Saviour.

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Baptism
- Prayer for children
- Song
- Bible Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21 (p.1175)
- Confession & Assurance
- Sermon
- Song
- Interview
- Prayers
- Song
- Closing Prayer

Most St Stephen's collection is received electronically.
BSB: 062 272
Account Number: 00490436
If you are a visitor please don't feel obliged to contribute financially.

Next Steps

Are you new? Catch up with Prash or Jill to share your story and hear about St Stephen's church life.

Been regularly coming? If you are a regular member of our church, we encourage you to attend our next Belonging Course which runs on November 22 from 12-3pm. Belonging is the gateway to our GaP Groups, serving and deeper connection with the community.

Or if you'd like to learn more sooner, you may also like to arrange a coffee with Prash or Jill. Simply reach out – they'd love to chat.

Prayers for the Service

Prayer is a privilege we have because of Christ's death and resurrection. Through him, we can confidently approach God for forgiveness (Hebrews 10:22). If you trust in Christ, please pray with us. If you are still exploring who Jesus is, feel free to listen in.

A Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father,
you have loved us with an everlasting love,
but we have gone our own way,
and rejected your will for our lives.
We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.
For the sake of your Son who died for us,
forgive us, cleanse us, and change us.
By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you,
and to please you in every way;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Words of Assurance

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Romans 5:4

The Lord's Prayer

This is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray (Matthew 6:5-14).

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.
Amen.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, from whose glorious riches your people are strengthened:
grant us power by your Spirit to grasp together the love of Christ,
that, rooted and established in love, we may be filled with all your fullness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sermon Notes

God's Church - for love | Ephesians 3:14-21

Preacher: Gordon Luk

Confused about prayer?

1. God’s grace brings us to kneel in prayer (v. 14-15)

2. Christ shapes what we pray for (v. 16-19)

3. Knowing God moves us to praise (v. 20-21)

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Opening Reflection

Think about a non-Christian friend: What do they think about prayer? Are they positive or negative about it?

📖 Going deep in God's Word

Read Ephesians 3:14-21

1. What reason(s) prompts Paul to pray (v. 14)? Look back to Ch 3:10-13 and also to Ch 2:19-22

2. How does Paul pray (v. 14) and what does that reflect his view of God (see also v.15)? Discuss whether we've lost our reverence and awe of God in our prayers.

3. List out all that Paul prays for (v. 16-19). What do you think each of these mean?

4. Why does Paul pray for these things? How does the gospel shape these prayer points? How does his view of God shape how he expects God to answer these prayers (v. 20-21)?

🙏 Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of this prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21, spend time praying the same things for:

1. Yourself
2. Each other in your GaP group
3. For our church
4. For a non-Christian friend (perhaps the one you're hoping to invite to Carols)

Read the Bible with us!

After reading each passage, use ACTS framework to help you listen carefully to God's Word and respond to Him in prayer:

1. Adoration: What does this passage show you about God? Praise him for it.
2. Confession: Where does it challenge your thoughts or actions? Bring that honestly to God.
3. Thanksgiving: What comfort, promise or gift can you thank God for that He has shown you in this passage?
4. Supplication: What help do you need to live out what you've read today? Ask God for it

Monday – Ephesians 6:1-4
Tuesday – Ephesians 6:5-9
Wednesday – Ephesians 6:10-12
Thursday – Ephesians 6:13-17
Friday – Ephesians 6:18-24

Notices

Gift Day 2026

We want to invite you to participate in this year's gift day and pledge campaign. Members are encouraged to give a one-off gift & pledge to increase their 2027 giving by 10%. We hope this campaign will help us meet the stretch budget for next year as part of a 3-year financial plan to fund our new Youth & Membership Minister.



As we consider how much we can affort, we are encouraged to remember the goodness of God - his riches surround us and are given willingly and abundantly by him. We pray our gifts might allow him to be glorified in the lives of many more!

Celebrating Percy's Baptism

Today we celebrate Percy's baptism, a special practice in the life of the church. Baptism is an outward sign of an inward grace. The water used symbolises God washing away sin and the new life he gives in Christ. We baptise children because this follows the pattern we see in Scripture, where God's promises are made not just to individuals but to their households. Baptising babies reminds us that it's God's grace that saves us not anything we do. Through baptism, Percy is welcomed into the family of believers, and we pray that he will grow to know Jesus, trust him and follow him all his life. What a wonderful and gracious God we have, who welcomes us into his family and gives us new life through Jesus!

Notices

Carols on the Grass: Invite a Friend!



Wouldn't it be wonderful if every church member prayed daily for a friend and invited someone to Carols?

This year, we're reducing serving commitments so we can focus on bringing friends. We still need volunteers! But let's share the load so we're free to spend time with friends we've invited. For example, where possible, we'd encourage families to avoid having both parents serving officially, so that you have capacity to be with guests!

Serving at Carols

Carols is a wonderful opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with our community, with 500 people expected to join us! Getting the gospel out is our first priority, and we all have a part to play.

There are a few ways you can get involved:

1. Bring a friend: Invite someone along to hear the good news of Jesus.
2. Bring some food: Bake or bring a plate of dessert or fresh fruit to share.
3. Help on the day: Join the team helping with set-up and welcoming our guests.

If you can help bring food or serve on the day, please scan the QR code and tick “Serving at Carols” on our Connect Card

What's Coming Up

9 November	Come and See
10 November	Playtime
15 November	Parish Gift Day
22 November	Belonging
29 November	Newish Moring Tea

For more on what's happening this spring at St Stephen's, visit st-stephens.com.au/spring

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