

What is God doing in the world?

Wk 3

Sunday 19 January 2025

Our 9:30am service is live streamed to our YouTube and Facebook Channels.

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Song
- Bible Reading: Romans 1:8-17 (p. 1126)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Vision Spot
- Song
- Conclusion

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.

“Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore; mortals, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore.” What a joy it is to gather as God’s people and lift our hearts in worship of the risen King! Whether you’re new, visiting, or a regular part of our church family, we’re so glad you’re here.



Meeting together is a privilege, as we encourage one another and grow in the hope of the gospel. If you have questions about today’s service, need prayer, or simply want to share your thoughts, we’d love to hear from you! Use the Connect Card via the QR code to let us know how you found the service and how we can support you.

“Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!” Let’s praise our King together today, united in awe of His Son and the grace he offers all generations. Welcome!

Next Steps

Are you new? We would love to meet you. Hear a brief intro on the life of our church at our next **Newish Morning Tea** on 16 February. It runs for ½ an hour straight after the service.

Been regularly coming? If you are a regular member of our church, we encourage you to attend our next **Belonging Course** which runs on 23 February 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 at another time, you can arrange a coffee with Prash or Jill. Simply reach out – they’d love to chat.

Prayers for the Service

These prayers are used during the service. Prayer is a privilege we are given because Christ died for us. His death & resurrection means we can confidently approach God seeking forgiveness (Hebrews 10:22). If you believe that Christ died to deal with your failings then you should be confident to pray with us. If you are still exploring who Christ is then feel free to listen in.

A Prayer of Confession

Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:1

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.

Sermon Notes

God's Power for Salvation | Romans 1:8-17

Preacher: Damien Clark

1. Living Unashamed

2. Gospel Power

3. Salvation For All

Bible Study

1. What product/experience/topic are you the most passionate advocate for? Why?
2. Summarise the gospel in a few sentences.

Read Romans 1:1-17

What are the key features of the gospel highlighted by Paul in verses 2-7?

3. Note down how each person of the Trinity is portrayed as working.
4. How would you summarise the gospel from these verses?
5. What are the similarities and differences between your answers to questions 2 and 4?
6. What is Paul's desire in verses 10-12?
7. Why is he so passionate about this?

8. Paul talks about mutual encouragement in verse 12. Are there any relationships in your life that reflect this verse? How can you foster such relationships?
9. How have you seen God working His power in your life in the last week? Month? Year?
10. What rhythms could you establish that help you regularly reflect on how God is working in your life?
11. Who is someone you can encourage by pointing to a work of God you've observed in their life recently?
12. What difference does being unashamed of the gospel make in your home? Workplace? Social circles? Day-to-day interactions?
13. Do you feel pressure to have a smooth, compelling pitch for the gospel before you start sharing?
14. What truths in this passage (or elsewhere) comfort and reassure you as you attempt to share your faith?

Prayer and Act

1. Spend a few moments praying about what you've learned. Ask God to give you boldness and trust in His power to save. Pray for specific people in your life who need to hear the good news of Jesus.

Notices

Gospel and Prayer Groups

The Bible encourages us to meet together regularly to encourage one another (Hebrews 10:24-25). We all need constant reminders of the gospel in the ups and downs of daily life. Together, we can point each other to the forgiveness we have in Jesus's death and the hope of eternal life secured through His resurrection.

If you follow Jesus and call St Stephen's your home, we warmly invite you to join a GaP group this year. GaP Groups are midweek gatherings where we feed on God's Word and pray for one another, letting the gospel shape every part of our lives. Most groups meet for 1.5 to 2 hours and have a designated leader(s). However, these groups are also spaces where everyone can actively serve, love, and care for one another as we grow together.



Whether you're young in the Christian faith or have been walking with Jesus for years, there's a place for you in a GaP group!

Please scan this code to indicate your preferences for a Gospel and Prayer (GaP) group this year.



Friday Kids BBQ - 31 January

At Friday Kids, a mum shared how her son's friend, who doesn't attend church, had been asking questions about Jesus.

She offered to take him along to church, and his family was thrilled, saying, "We'd love for him to go!" Moments like this happen because of the relationships built between families.

To foster more connections, we're hosting a Friday Kids BBQ on January 31st. Come along to meet other families and see how God is working through Friday Kids!



Notices

Vision Sunday - 2 February

Be part of Vision Sunday as we come together to seek God’s direction and encouragement for the year ahead.

After Morning Church, enjoy a delicious brunch, or stay for dinner after Night Church—a perfect way to connect and reflect on what God is calling us to as a church family.

Vision Sunday flows into our Week of Prayer (3-7 February, 7:30–8:30pm nightly).

This is a vital time to gather, ask for God’s blessing on our ministries, and grow in dependence on Him. Mark the dates, and let’s start the year united in prayer and purpose!



Lunar New Year Banquet - 17 February

A promotional flyer for the Lunar New Year Banquet. The flyer has a red background with a white central box. On the left, there is a red lantern icon. The text reads: "St Stephen's WILLOUGHBY invites you to our Lunar New Year Banquet MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 7-9:30PM". On the right, it says: "3 COURSE BANQUET | DRINKS INCL. | \$25 PP WITH A TASTE OF THE ALPHA COURSE A chance to #tryalpha and explore life, faith & meaning, through the 1st instalment of the world-renowned Alpha Course." Below this is a location pin icon for "211 Mowbray Rd. Willoughby" and a website "st-stephens.com.au". There is also a QR code and a red question mark icon with the word "Alpha" below it, and the text "Scan to book your spot.".

Big Day Out - 22 March

Join us on Saturday, 22 March for our Church’s Big Day Out—a wonderful opportunity for our morning church community to come together. Over the day, we’ll enjoy great teaching, plenty of time to connect and strengthen relationships, and the beauty of the outdoors. There’ll also be delicious food to share and moments to grow as God’s people.

It’s a day to recharge, deepen friendships, and be encouraged in our walk with Christ. Mark it in your diary and get ready for a fantastic day together! Stay tuned for more details. We can’t wait to see you there!

What's Coming Up

- 26 - 30 January LiT Camp
- 28 January Crafternoon
- 31 January Friday Kids BBQ
- 2 February Vision Sunday
- 3-7 February Week of Prayer

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

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