

God's Church

Sermons on the book of Ephesians



Week 3

Sunday 25 October 2026

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Prayer for children
- Song
- Bible Reading: Ephesians 2:11-22 (p.1174)
- Sermon
- Song
- Prayers
- Vision Spot
- 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.

Welcome to Church! Whether you've been coming for years, have recently joined us, or are checking out Christianity, we're really glad you're here. We have Newish morning tea today which is a great option for those who are new to church - come afterwards.



Connect Card

We talk a lot about belonging. Yet finding genuine community can be surprisingly difficult. We naturally gravitate towards people who share our background, interests, age, politics, culture or stage of life. And sometimes our differences push us further apart. The church Jesus creates is meant to be different.

In Ephesians 2, Paul describes two groups separated by enormous religious and cultural barriers. Yet through his death, Jesus brings them together. That is an extraordinary vision for church. Our differences remain, but they no longer need to define or divide us.

We long for St Stephen's to be made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ – a community where our unity in Jesus is stronger than the things that might otherwise separate us.

Next Steps

Are you new? We would love to meet you. Hear a brief intro on the life of our church at our [Newish Morning Tea today](#). 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 [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

Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed:
we have not loved you with our whole heart,
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves:
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Words of Assurance

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ

Ephesians 2:13

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

God of peace, through the cross of your Son
you have brought us near and made us one:
remove our pride and hostility, that, united by your Spirit,
we may welcome one another as members of your household;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sermon Notes

Hope for Conflict ridden world | Ephesians 2:11-22

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

The Heart of Conflict

The Solution of the Cross

The New Reality of the Church

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Opening Reflection

Can you think of a good and/or bad experience of 'unity'? Why did it work/not work?

Going deep in God's Word

Read Ephesians 2:11-22

1. Fill out the following table about how Paul describes our before and after, using the first row as an example.

Our past (v. 11-12)	Our current status (v. 19-22)
We were foreigners to the covenant of promise (v. 12)	We are no longer foreigners and strangers (v. 19)

2. How was our previous exclusion and separation from God and His covenant (see Ezekiel 44:9 as an example) even greater than the typical rivalry and hostility between two nations/cultures?
3. How has God achieved peace in Christ (v. 13-18)? List out all ways peace has been achieved by God. How does this peace surpass even the good examples of peace and unity in our world?
4. Reflect on the peace Christ has won between us and think about our church. How does this passage articulate the joys you experience in our church unity and fellowship? How does this passage challenge you in how you relate to others at church?

Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of God's Word, spend some time praying honestly together for our church unity and your part in it. Use these questions to guide your confessions, thanksgivings and prayers.

1. Are you tempted to act to others in our church, in the same way you used to act before you became a Christian? (ie. Do you willingly/unwillingly exclude certain groups of people?) Spend time confessing these to God.

2. Look back on what Christ has done for us in the passage and give thanks for them.

3. Pray for one member/family of church that you don't know very well. How can you express the unity you have in Christ with them in the coming weeks?

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 4:1-6](#)

Tuesday – [Ephesians 4:7-13](#)

Wednesday – [Ephesians 4:14-16](#)

Thursday – [Ephesians 4:17-24](#)

Friday – [Ephesians 4:25-32](#)

Notices

Preparing for Our New Staff Member in 2027

Last month we announced the good news that we were appointing a new staff member for 2027 to help us reach the nearly 60K people who do not know Jesus but live within 2km of our building.



Let's get to work preparing for the new staff member's arrival! To fund this position:

1. The church is using some of a bequest gift for the next 3 years.
2. We are encouraging all members to give toward the Gift Day target of \$70,000.
3. We are asking all members to pledge to increase their giving in 2027 by 10%.

These three steps will help us fund for our new staff member and hopefully reach many more people.

Youth Ministry: Reaching More Young People

Last term, we welcomed 8 non-Christian friends to Half Past Six — but that's just a drop in the ocean of teenagers in our area who don't know Jesus! We're excited for Tim Young to join us as our new Youth Minister. We hope God will use Tim to reach more youth in our area by continuing to build connections with local schools, equip teenagers, and create opportunities for young people to hear about Jesus and discover the hope he offers.



Notices

Look who's coming to Lunch - 1 November

Next Sunday is a chance for us to keep experiencing the rich community God has given us in the gospel. If you are in our AM service register for Look who is coming to Lunch and share a meal with others.



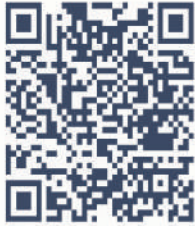
YOU ARE INVITED TO

LOOK WHO'S COMING TO LUNCH

WHEN: 1 NOVEMBER, 2026
LOCATION: TBA

Join in this fun opportunity to get to know people in your church community!

[Signup today!](#)



Serving at St Stephen's in 2027

In Ephesians 2:10, we're reminded that we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works. Serving is a wonderful response to God's grace to us in Jesus.

As you look ahead to 2027, we want everyone who calls St Stephen's home to prayerfully consider how you might serve. Please take a moment to fill out the [ministry expression of interest form](#), whether you're continuing in your current ministry or exploring something new.



What's Coming Up

26 October	Come and See
27 October	Playtime
1 November	Look Who's Coming to Lunch (AM Church)
15 November	Parish Gift Day
22 November	Belonging

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

Our Staff - Contact Us!



Prashanth Colombage
Senior Minister & Sunday Services
M: 0432 314 466
E: prash@st-stephens.com.au



Gordon Luk
Outreach & Spiritual Maturity
E: gordon@st-stephens.com.au



Pippie Krebs
Kids & Youth Ministry & Training
E: pippie@st-stephens.com.au



Jill Chilton
Membership Minister
E: jill@st-stephens.com.au



Emlyn Hoyt
Ministry Trainee
E: emlyn.hoyt@st-stephens.com.au