



St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY
VISION SUNDAY

WE LONG TO BE A CHURCH MADE

beautiful, diverse and large

by the gracious work of Christ

VISION
SUNDAY

Sunday 20 October 2024

Our 9:45am service is live streamed to our YouTube and Facebook Channels.

TODAY'S 9:45AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
Mark 10:35-45
(p. 1014)
- Sermon
- Song
- Prayers
- Announcements
- 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.

Welcome to this week's service! We are so glad you're here. As we gather together in worship, we encourage you to fully engage and enjoy the service. Allow yourself to be challenged by the teaching as we explore God's Word and its application to our lives.



After the service, we invite you to join us for our exciting Ministry Fair! This is a fantastic opportunity to "taste and see" the various ways you can serve in our church community. Whether you're looking to volunteer your time or discover your new ways to love your neighbour there's a place for you here. We hope you leave today with a renewed vigor and inspiration to follow our servant King!

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 24 November. 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 10 November 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

Most merciful God,
we humbly admit that we need your help.
We confess that we have wandered from your way:
we have done wrong, and we have failed to do what is right.
You alone can save us.
Have mercy on us:
wipe out our sins and teach us to forgive others.
Bring forth in us the fruit of the Spirit
that we may live as disciples of Christ.
This we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1-2

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

The Beauty of Service | Mark 10:35-45

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. An Unusual Beauty

Surprising

Revealing

Shaping

i.

ii.

iii.

2. A Universal Challenge

“We’re small when we begin to absorb the imperatives that dominate our modern life: Be first. Be best. Be somebody. Stand out from the crowd. Rise above your peers. Carve out a name.”

- Chad Bird

3. A Service that Saves

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

This week all GaP Groups are encouraged to attend our week of prayer - Monday to Friday from 7:30pm to 8:30pm in the Chapel Hall. Below are 5 small studies which you can use in your own time, or with a small group, to read, reflect and pray through.



Monday - Genesis 12:1-4

- How is Abraham called to submit and serve?
- What does God promise?
- How does Jesus's service bless many nations including your country of origin?
- What might this example stir you to do as an act of service?

Tuesday - Exodus 3:7-10

- What is Moses called to do and why is he sent?
- How did Jesus follow and exceed the example of Moses?
- What might it look like for you to serve other so they are freed from spiritual slavery?

Wednesday - Isaiah 58:6-7

- Who are we encouraged to direct our service toward?
- How did Jesus fulfil and exceed this in his life, death and resurrection?
- Where might you show a greater generosity in this way?

Thursday - Mark 10:42-45

- What is Jesus encouraging us to do?
- How does this differ from the world's attitudes?
- How does he model and exceed what he calls us to do?
- How can this shape your attitude to church ministry this coming year?

Friday - Philippians 2:1-11

- What is surprising about this account?
- What should the model of Jesus encourage us to do?
- How does Jesus's ministry deal with failure of his people to live servant hearted lives?

Notices

Ministry Fair | 20 October

The Ministry Fair is happening today as part of Vision Sunday! This is your chance to explore the many ways you can serve in 2025 and help our church grow as a beautiful, diverse community.

Take your time visiting each stall, asking questions, and enjoying some food along the way. Even if you don't think you'll join a particular team, give the activities a go!



When you're ready, fill out an expression of interest form—you're not committing to anything yet. Once you've submitted your form, a leader will contact you for a conversation about what it might look like to join a team. Tick as many boxes as you like, and remember, at most you'll only be asked to commit to one Sunday ministry and one midweek ministry.

Let's see how God might use your gifts to bless others this year!

Prayer Week | 21-24 October

Prayer is the heartbeat of our church's mission. This week, we invite you to join us Monday-Thursday from 7:30-8:30pm in the Chapel Hall for a time of prayer.

Let's come together as a church family, seeking God's blessing over His ministries and asking Him to ignite in us a deeper desire to pray and serve. Whether you've been involved in church life for years or are new, this is a vital opportunity to lift up our church and ask God to stir in each of us a heart for the gospel and a willingness to serve. God says your prayers matter—let's seek God's direction together!



Notices

Dumpling Making Night | 1 November

Dumpling Making Night is a night of food and fun for everyone of all ages.

It's also a chance for us to bring a friend along so they can hear about why Jesus matters. We want to be a church where anyone can come along to think about life, faith and Jesus.

Who could you bring along?

Book your spot at st-stephens.com.au/spring



What's Coming Up

- 21 Oct - 16 Dec Come and See (Mondays)
- 21-24 October Prayer Week
- 1 November Dumpling Making Night
- 10 November Belonging Course
- 16 November Prayer Morning

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

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