



GLORIOUS
COMPLEX
DIVINE
1 Corinthians

Wk 11

Sunday 17 November 2024

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

TODAY'S
9:45AM
SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Survey
- Bible Reading:
1 Cor 13
(p. 1152)
- 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 church! Whether you're joining us for the first time or you've been here many times before, we're so glad to be together as a community gathered in the light of the gospel. Today, we have the joy of opening God's Word to hear His truth and be changed by it.

The Bible doesn't just give us wisdom; it reveals Jesus, whose grace transforms every part of our lives. As we listen and apply what we learn, may our hearts be shaped to reflect His love and humility.

Our vision is to see this church grow in beauty, diversity, and size—not through our efforts alone but by the gracious work of Christ among us. It's our hope that everyone here finds belonging and purpose as we pursue God's mission together. Let's come before God today with open hearts, ready to be encouraged, challenged, and equipped for the week ahead.



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 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

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.

And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:11

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 Rule of Love in the Church | 1 Corinthians 13

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. Love is Essential

2. Love is out of this world

3. Love is found in Christ

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. Why does this passage still resonate with a secular culture that has discarded many things from the Bible?

Read 1 Corinthians 13

Getting your head around the passage:

Choose as many of these questions as you need to get your head around the passage.

- A. What qualities of love are described?
- B. What is the significance of love compared to the spiritual gifts of the Corinthians?
- C. What does love eclipse and why?
- D. How is love related to maturity?
- E. What aspect of love did the Corinthians struggle with based on the preceding chapters?

2. Which of the qualities of love in this passage do you most need to experience in your life at present?

3. Have you ever been guilty of serving or giving without love? What has this looked like?

4. In the list from vv.4-7, which do you find hardest to live out? Why might that be the case?

5. How can lack of love in your life further evil and hinder joy?

6. As a group (maybe split them amongst the group), consider these verses and note down/share the characteristics of Jesus which exemplify love.

Passage	Characteristic
John 20:26-29	
Matt 14:14ff	
John 4:34	
John 18:36-37	
John 13:4-5	
Matt 4:1-11	
John 8:59	

“The love of Christ is the fountain from whence all our love must flow; it is the root of our love to one another; and, therefore, if we would have our hearts enlarged in love to one another, we must look much to the love of Christ.” - Thomas Goodwin

7. How can the love of Jesus transform you to love others more? How does it meet the needs you described in Q.2 above? How does it address the blockers in Q.4 above?

Prayer Time

1. Reflect on the areas where you are acting without love. Confess them and seek God’s forgiveness.
2. Spend time thanking God for the various and wondrous examples of Jesus’s love for us.

Notices

Gift Day | 17 November

As we approach our annual Gift Day, we're excited to come together as a church family to help meet the final part of this year's budget and set the foundation for great gospel ministry in the year ahead. Acts 2:44-45 gives us a beautiful example of generosity in the early church:

“All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.”

This spirit of sharing wasn't forced or reluctant—it was a joyful response to the generosity they had first experienced in Jesus.

Your gift will allow us to continue building a place where people can come to know Jesus, grow in faith, and find community.



Gift Day 17 Nov
Support the life, ministry,
and outreach of St Stephen's
REF: GIFTDAY



2024 Target: \$50,000



Many of us give regularly to the ministry here. Thank you for that! Gift day is an additional opportunity to be generous in light of the unexpected blessings you may have received this year. Every contribution, big or small, is a part of what God is doing through us. The Wardens and Treasurer hope we might see 70 households participate in this moment.



Notices

Carols on the Grass | 7 December

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matt 5:14, 16)

Carols on the Grass is a great opportunity to be a light of the gospel, to shine the great news of Jesus, to our community. Each year we have over 300 people come to our site, to hear and join us in singing about the Son of God coming down to earth to save us.

This year, Carols on the Grass will have lots of what we had last year: great food, carolling, a Kid’s skit, and also something new—Christmas markets.

Help us invite our neighbours!

Grab a bundle of fliers and help us with the letterbox drop.



Join us for **CAROLS**
on the grass
Saturday 7th Dec at 5pm



What better way to celebrate the hope of Christmas than with carols?

NEW!

Join us on Saturday 7th December at 5pm for a kids' games, Christmas markets and dinner. Carols will begin at 6pm, featuring Willoughby Public School band, children's activities, a nativity play and carolling.

The evening will finish at 8pm.
Cost: \$15 per person, \$5 for children, \$30 for a family.

*Bring your own picnic blanket and any additional drinks and snacks. Places are limited.

For more information visit: st-stephens.com.au/christmas



What's Coming Up

- 18 Nov - 16 Dec Come and See (Mondays)
- 21 November Encounter for Seniors
- 24 November Newish Morning Tea
- 7 December Carols on the Grass
- 10 December Youth & Kids Leaders Dinner

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

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