

This is God



The life of Jesus according to John's Gospel

Wk 9

TODAY'S
9:45AM
SERVICE:

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
John 9:1-41

(Bible - p.1074)

- Sermon
- Song
- Prayer
- Song
- Conclusion

If you are a visitor to our online service please don't feel obliged to contribute financially.

Most St Stephen's collection is received electronically.
BSB: 062 272
Account Number:
00490436

Sunday 27 March 2022

Our 9:45am service is live streamed to our YouTube and Facebook Channels. If you don't wish to feature on our stream, please occupy the pews towards the back.

Welcome to St Stephen's. We're glad to have you with us this Sunday as we enjoy the privilege and responsibility of living as God's people. We would love to hear from you so please take a moment and fill in the Connect Card using the QR Code.



The good news of Jesus is genuinely worth hearing. It really changes people's lives. It opens them up to a new perspective on the world we live in and the future we await. Many people in this building can testify to the way hearing the good news of Jesus changed their life and set them on a new direction – the way it re-oriented their priorities, their choices and their worldview.

God's great desire is that all people hear the news and respond. Maybe you've heard it many times, maybe today is the 1st time or one of the 1st times. Either way God's desire is you would hear the news about who Jesus is and what he has done and respond. If we can help you with that then we want to! Reach out to a staff member or a welcomer and let us know you'd like to respond.

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.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

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.

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

True Blindness, True Sight | Passage: [John 9:1-41](#) - p.1074

1. The man who confronts suffering (v. 1-7)

2. The neighbours and the Pharisees (v. 8-16)

3. The parents and the Pharisees (v. 18-23)

4. The Pharisees and the man (v. 24-34)

5. Jesus and the man (v. 35-41)

6. An uncomfortable irony

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Questions

1. What reasons have you heard given for why someone doesn't believe in Jesus?

Read John 9:1-41

Getting your head around the passage:

Use as many questions as you need to ensure you understand the passage's contents.

1. Try and break up the passage into smaller sections. How should the crowd respond?
2. List all the different characters in the story.
3. Try and describe their responses to Jesus and to the healing.
4. See if you can explain the irony at the end of the chapter to do with seeing/blindness.

2. From some of the reasons given for unbelief (q1), what do you think is really going on (in their hearts)?
3. Think about your own story in coming to trust in Jesus, what things (in your heart) do you think were blinding you from seeing Jesus? How did God help remove your spiritual blindness? (Reflect on 2 Cor 4:6)

4. Reflecting on what hindered the Jews, discuss the reasons we fail to believe in Jesus.
 5. Jesus is not just the Light of the World (John 8), he is also the Good Shepherd (John 10) he is both of those to the man born blind in John 9. How has Jesus comforted and helped and cared for you when you felt the pain and cost of believing in Him?



GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video provided to your group leader.

1. What do you think about the idea that belief in the Gospel encourages a willingness to see Churches Grow
 2. What might discourage us from multiplying groups?

Prayer

1. Spend some time in confession and repentance as a group.
 2. Pray God would help you see the greatest promises God has offered.

Read the Bible with us!

- 1. What is happening in the surrounding verses?
 - 2. What questions do you have (take them to your midweek group)
 - 3. What do we learn about Jesus?
 - 4. If this is true, how should you respond?

Monday - John 7:37-39

Tuesday - John 8:31-38

Wednesday - John 8:54-59

Thursday - John 9:1-5

Friday - John 9:35-41

Notices

AGM Tomorrow!

Tomorrow (Monday) night we hold our AGM. The church AGM isn't like a corporate AGM. We don't talk about profits and losses. We talk about God's blessings, his mission and our part. We reflect on the year that's been and we elect leaders to roles in our church. It's a wonderfully encouraging night – we would love to have you join us. 7:30pm in the Church building.

Annual General Meeting

28 March 2022
7:30PM

Newish Morning Tea - Today!

After morning church (9:45am service), we have Newish Morning tea at 11:00am in the Church Office. If you are new to St. Stephen's it is something that is worth attending. Newish morning tea is an opportunity for you to meet the staff team. You will hear a little about our vision and mission; you get to ask any/all burning questions. Newish to St. Stephen's? Haven't attended Newish Morning Tea? Just come along! Do you know someone Newish? Please encourage them to attend. Need more information? Talk to Jill Chilton (Membership Pastor) in the 9:45am service or send her an email at jill@st-stephens.com.au.

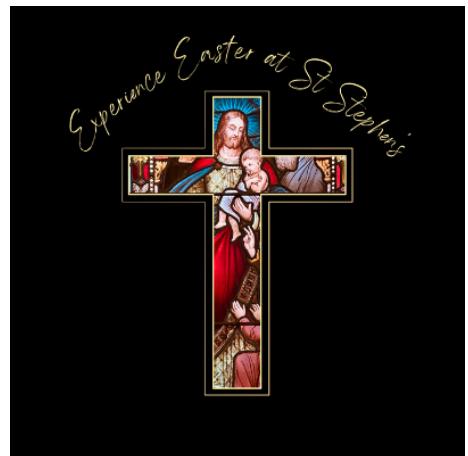
Alpha 2022 - Recap

On the final night of Alpha, four guests indicated that they had accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour—praise God! Please be praying that we would help them with the next steps and they would grow solid roots in the gospel. Next Saturday 2 April, we are having an Alpha Retreat. We hope and pray that this will be a great time together discussing faith and Jesus. Alpha this term has been an enormously encouraging thing for our church, from the opening Lunar New Year night to the Wednesday nights where different GaP groups have helped with cooking and serving dinner.



Experience Easter at St. Stephen's

Last Easter, we aimed to reach families in our neighbourhood. This Easter, Good Friday and Easter Sunday services will again be family oriented. There will be family friendly things (both during and after the services) that people of all ages will enjoy.



We also want to reach people this Easter who have never attended church before or even heard of the original Easter story. Our invitation is "Come experience Easter with us." We pray that many will be open to doing that and will come and hear the beautiful story of Jesus' death and resurrection.

We will also be running a new and unique event on the Thursday night before Easter called "An Easter Walkthrough". We hope that this self-guided, multi-sensory tour will help guests engage deeply and creatively with that original Easter story, to re-live and follow Jesus' footsteps that world-changing night. It will be a great event not just for you but for your friends, someone who might not feel comfortable coming to a church service! Who will you bring this year?

H.P.S Easter party

The Half Past Six Youth Group is organising an Easter Party on the 1st of April. It's a chance for us to learn about what happened on the first Easter and what it means for us. There is going to be an easter egg hunt and dinner. Is there someone you could bring along to the party?

When: Friday, April 1st

Time: 6:30pm-8:30pm

Who: Kids year 5 to 9

Picnic at Bales Park Update

Last Sunday after Church, we had a picnic at Bales Park. Despite the date change, we had a great turnout. Everyone had a wonderful time, especially the kids! It was a chance for people to get to know each other in a relaxed environment. How can you keep connecting with the people you met at the picnic? Could you have someone over for a meal or meet them at a cafe for a cup of coffee?

What's Coming Up

Sunday 27th	Newish Morning Tea - Church office - 11:00am onwards PTC Course Week 7
Monday 28th	Weekly Prayer Meeting - Join Annual General Meeting - 7:30pm in the Church
Tuesday 29th	Playtime - More Info – April –
Friday 1st	Half Past Six (Our Youth Group for Yrs 5-10)
Saturday 2nd	Prayer Morning 8:30-8:55am - Zoom Link Meeting ID: 878 2345 9321 Passcode: 836532
Friday 8th	KYCK Conference

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