

This is God



The life of Jesus according to John's Gospel

Wk 10

Sunday 3 April 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.

TODAY'S 9:45^{AM} SERVICE:

- Welcome
- Songs
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
[John 10:1-21](#)
(Bible - p.1075)
- Sermon
- Song
- Prayer
- Communion
- 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

Welcome to St Stephen's. We're glad you can join us this morning. Please let us know how you found the morning by using the QR code. You can also respond to various things raised in the service using the code.



These next Sundays we will be spending time reflecting on Jesus's last days before he was crucified. We're using the eyewitness account of Jesus's life found in John's Gospel. Each week we have been challenged by this central question - do we believe Jesus is God? John, the author and eyewitness certainly does.

When we get to the week of Easter there are a number of ways for you to reflect, remember and rejoice over Jesus's gracious gift to us - himself. Maybe the Easter Walkthrough, one of our services on Good Friday or Easter Sunday or through our weekly Bible readings. We have endeavoured to give you various opportunities to spend time with the story of Jesus and meet him in those events. Jesus wants to know you personally and intimately - are you open to that?



St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

Prayers for those not sharing in Lord's Supper

Participation in the Lord's Supper is for those who have professed faith in Jesus - it's a powerful and important symbol of the Christian message. As such we want to encourage those who are still exploring the Christian faith to feel free to remain in their seats when others move to the front to receive the Lord's Supper. During that time you may want to reflect on the sermon or Bible reading. You may also want to pray one of these prayers below.

Prayer for those searching for truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me who you are. Give me an understanding of you that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for those struggling with sin

Lord Jesus, enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayers adapted from Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York.

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 and 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

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Questions

1. What does it look like to follow an influential figure or leader?

Read John 10:1-21

Getting your head around the passage:

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

1. Who is Jesus talking to and how does that impact our understanding of the passage?
2. Contrast the difference between the good shepherd and the false shepherds.
3. What benefits comes from following the good shepherd?
4. How does the good shepherd relate to his sheep?
5. Who decides that Jesus should lay his life down?

“Is it possible for the human mind to conceive of an infinite personality? Can it imagine a beginningless being, infinitely powerful and intelligent?” (Robert Ingersoll)

2. How might we respond to the above view of the unknowable nature of God in light of what Jesus teaches here?

3. How can you ‘hear’ Jesus’s voice? What do you think he is referring to? Consider Acts 18:9-10 & Rom 10:17. How do they help us understand Jesus’s words?

4. Christians often talk about having a 'personal relationship' with Jesus. How does this passage fill out what that phrase might mean.

5. What makes it harder for you to completely follow Jesus?

6. List the things Jesus will do for his sheep - how can each help you to follow him more?

Prayer

1. Pray God might give you a richer experience of his presence as you read the Bible this coming week.
2. Spend time in confession as you reflect on the parts of your life you find harder to follow Jesus in.
3. Give thanks for the aspects of Jesus's ministry in Q.6 that bring you most comfort.

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 10:1-6
Tuesday - John 10:7-10
Wednesday - John 10:11-21
Thursday - John 9:24-27
Friday - John 9:28-29

Notices

Easter events coming up.

Imagine someone who is looking forward to the Easter break—the last couple of years have been hard and a public holiday is always welcome. They've always thought of Easter positively because it's a public holiday, but they've never thought any deeper into why there's even an Easter holiday in the first place. They've never heard the original Easter story. They've never been in a church before; they don't even know what "Anglican" means. But—they're open to it. Recent world-events have made them open to having a deeper experience this Easter. They're open to experiencing Easter with us at St Stephen's.

There are thousands of people like this in Willoughby! We're inviting them to come experience Easter with us at St Stephen's.

We hope particularly that 'An Easter Walkthrough' appeals to them, especially if they're not yet ready to step into a church building for an Easter service. It's a self-guided tour, you can participate as little or as much as they feel comfortable with. At each of the seven moments of Jesus's last day, they will be able to engage with the story as told in the Bible in interesting and creative ways that involve all their senses.

Come along yourself and bring a friend! Sign up for the letterbox drop so we can invite our neighbours along!

Evangelism training

Our church cannot grow to be beautiful, diverse and large unless God works through us in bringing our friends to faith. We want to be learning how to do this better and supporting each other. We're planning to hold evangelism training nights in May/June and also attend a day conference on Saturday 4 June.



More details to come, please talk to Gordon or email him: gordon@st-stephens.com.au to indicate interest or ask any questions.

AGM Update:

On Monday 28th March we held our Annual General Meeting. Thanks to the 50 people who made it to the meeting. Copies of the Annual Report are available at the entry doors of the church - be sure to get a copy and read through!

We elected the following people as office bearers:



Parish Council - Garth Douglass, Nicky Warton, Nina Shou, Fred Chilton, Lois Feros, Angela Taradilis, Adam Barnes, Phil McCleod.

Wardens - Rob Cooper, Michelle Chase, Allan Saxby.

Nominators - Matt Chase, Kim Barnes, Jill Chilton, Brian Spiller, Stephen Buckley.

Crafternoon Tuesday 3rd May

As a Church, we want young people to grow in their devotion to God's word. One of the ways this happens each week is by kids doing a craft that reinforces the Bible lesson.

We would love your help in preparing these craft activities. Having the craft prepared is so helpful as it frees up the kid's leaders to spend more time preparing the biblical content of the lesson. We would appreciate your help! You don't need any particular craft skills. If you can cut, glue or stick we can put you to good use.

When: Tuesday 3rd May

Time: 12:30-2:30

Where: Hainsworth Hall

Newish morning tea - Update!

On Sunday, we welcomed people new to St. Stephen's for Newish in the church office. We had morning tea together and heard about our vision and mission in the local area. Newish is an opportunity to meet others, be introduced to the staff and start to talk about how each person and their families can join our congregation.

We aim to organise Newish Morning Tea monthly. If you missed out on Newish this month, please join us on 29th May 2022. We will look forward to welcoming you then.

What's Coming Up

Sunday 3rd	PTC Course
Monday 4th	Weekly Prayer Meeting - Join
Tuesday 5th	Playtime - More Info
Friday 8th	KYCK Conference Starts
Saturday 9th	Prayer Morning 8:30-8:55am - Zoom Link Meeting ID: 878 2345 9321 Passcode: 836532
Thursday 14th	Easter Walkthrough More Info
Friday 15th	Good Friday 7:45am 9:45am More Info
Sunday 17th	Easter Services 7:45am 9:45am 5:30pm More Info

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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