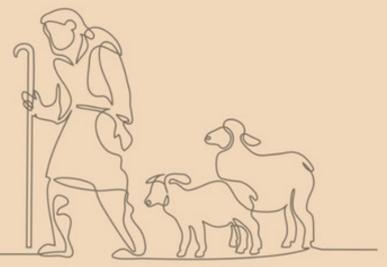


This is God



The life of Jesus according to John's Gospel

Wk 11

Sunday 10 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
- Confession
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
[John 12:1-19](#)
(Bible - p.1078)
- 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

Welcome to St Stephen's. It's great having you with us. We hope you find a warm welcome and some answers to the questions you might have about Jesus and the Christian faith. We would love it if you took a moment to let us know you were here by using the QR codes to complete the Connect Card. You can also respond to events in the service through the card.



Today is traditionally known as 'Palm Sunday' in the church calendar. It signifies the start of Jesus's final week before his death on the cross. 2000 years ago this day would have been a surreal day of celebration for Jesus's followers. The crowds were crying 'Hosanna' - a form of praise - and his disciples must have imagined only greater things to come. How the following week would transform their view of life, death and glory! As you reflect on Jesus's mission and the coming Easter weekend we want to help you see the true and glorious nature of Jesus. Will you join us at one or more of our events over the coming week? Full details can be found later in the booklet.



St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

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.

¹⁰Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: “God, I thank you that I am not like other people – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.”

¹³But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” ¹⁴I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.’

Luke 18:9-14

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.

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

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Questions

1. Have you ever been asked why Christians give up so much of their time and attention to their faith? How did that conversation go?

Read John 12:1-19

Getting your head around the passage:

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

1. What was so outrageous about Mary's act?
 2. Try to describe her gesture in measurements we'd be familiar with.
 3. Judas's objection (v. 5) seems reasonable, on what basis does Jesus defend Mary's action?
 4. How does Jesus react to the crowds coming to meet him? Why is this outrageous?
 5. Read Zechariah 9:9-17. What picture of Israel's king is given there?
-
2. These two stories about two outrageous acts (by Mary and by Jesus) only makes sense in light of Jesus's death on the cross. Discuss.

3. How might we (or others) misunderstand the kind of king Jesus is? How might we misunderstand Jesus' mission?

4. Jesus turned away from the path of earthly success and power and chose the path leading to suffering and death, and then glory. How is this both comforting and confronting to us who follow Him?

Prayer

1. Spend some time praying for our friends and family that they might come along to our Easter events and hear about the hope found in Jesus' death and resurrection.
2. Pray that God would remind us how central Jesus' death is to our faith. Pray that we will have the comfort and the strength needed to follow Jesus.

3.

Read the Bible with us!

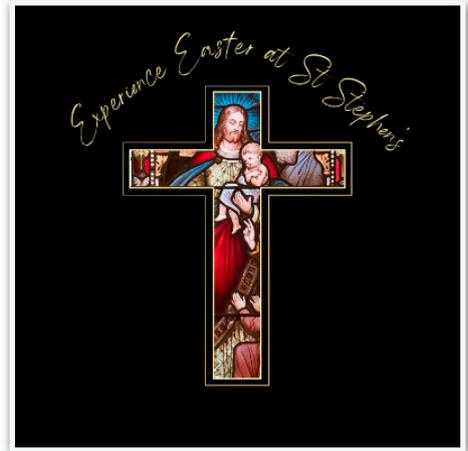
1. What is happening in the surrounding verses?
2. What questions do you have (take them to your midweek group)
3. What do we learn about Jesus?
4. If this is true, how should you respond?

Monday - [John 10:22-30](#)
Tuesday - [John 10:31-42](#)
Wednesday - [John 11:1-44](#)
Thursday - [John 11:45-53](#)
Friday - [John 11:54-12:11](#)

Notices

Easter Services @ St. Stephen's

A big thanks to everyone who helped out with the letterbox drop. All the remaining fliers were gone by the end of last Sunday! It is a testament to how the body of Christ at St. Stephen's serves as a team. Special thanks to Judy Jarvis and Vicki Henderson for organising the letterbox drop!



Our world is hungry for real hope and eternal life. We have what people need — the good news of Jesus who died and rose to life again! We hope our Easter Walkthrough on Thursday night (14th of April) is an opportunity for anyone to come re-live that original Easter story. It is a chance for those who have never heard the story before to experience it. It is also for those who follow Jesus to reflect on what he went through on that history-changing day. Our services on Good Friday and Easter Sunday will be for all ages. On Easter Sunday, we will have **a free sausage sizzle** after our 9:45am service and **a free dinner** after our 5:30pm service!

Please pray that many people will come to our Easter services and our Easter Walkthrough to hear this message of real hope. We are also looking for people to greet and talk to guests at the Easter Walkthrough. Please email Gordon at gordon@st-stephens.com.au if you would like to help.

Hope Explored Course.

After Easter, we are running Hope Explored, a four-week course for anyone to investigate and explore the hope and life promised by the Christian faith. The first night will be on Wednesday 4 May from 7-9pm in Chapel Hall. Food and drink will be provided. We will watch a couple of videos that explore how the death and resurrection of Jesus give us hope. We want this to be a comfortable space where anyone can be able to explore what Jesus offers and ask their questions. More details to come in the following weeks.



Evangelism training

Do you find it hard to talk about Jesus to your friends? Do you find it even harder to bring them to church or to a church event? Do you find it hard to connect with someone from a different culture with the gospel?



Last's year conference

These are common struggles, but we want to be better equipped in bringing our friends to faith.

We're hoping to go to a conference called ***Gossiping the Gospel***.

This conference aims to train all of us in having effective gospel conversations. We will love to get a St. Stephen's group to go together. For more details see newchurches.org.au/events/. If you'd like to attend, email

Gordon at gordon@st-stephens.com.au

We're also hoping to have some evangelism training nights at church in May/June. We're still in the process of organising this and will communicate more details soon!

KYCK this Weekend!

This weekend eight St. Stephen's youth and their leaders will join nearly 2000 others (youth and leaders) from around NSW to learn from God's word. Over the weekend, they will hear six bible talks from the book of Philippians and have a great time deepening relationships with each other.



Please join us in praying that this weekend:

1. is transformational in the lives of the youth;
2. people would come to know Jesus and be encouraged to live for him in every part of their life;
3. relationships would deepen, and we would have lots of fun; and
4. pray for leaders especially, those coming off a week of work; and
5. pray for safe travel and that no one will get COVID.

What's Coming Up

Sunday 10th	PTC Course
Monday 11th	Weekly Prayer Meeting - Join
Thursday 14th	Easter Walkthrough More Info
Friday 15th	Good Friday 7:45am 9:45am More Info
Saturday 16th	Prayer Morning 8:30-8:55am - Zoom Link Meeting ID: 878 2345 9321 Passcode: 836532
Sunday 17th	Easter Services 7:45am 9:45am 5:30pm More Info
Tuesday 26th	Evangelism Training

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