

Your life's work ...

Work, rest & retirement - May 2022

Wk 5

Sunday 29 May 2022

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

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
[Philippians 1:3-26](#), [Rev 22:1-5](#)
(Bible p.1180,
p.1253)
- Sermon
- 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

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. Great to have you join us! We hope you find a warm welcome, a challenge from the Bible and some encouragement about God's gracious offer. We think being here on a Sunday is the best decision you have made! We aren't made to live without God in our life.

We would love to hear from you. Would you take a moment to use the QR Code and let us know how you found the service or any aspect of today? You can also use the Code to respond to the many things happening in our church.



This booklet contains prayers that form part of the service, information on various things happening in the life of our church and a bible study, which is used by our Gospel and Prayer groups. Every week we have groups which meet to read the Bible, remind ourselves of God's promises, shape our prayers around those promises and encourage each other in light of those promises. Perhaps you are interested? If so, let us know through the QR Code, and we can arrange for you to chat with Prash about next steps.



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.

A Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father,
we praise you for adopting us as your children
and making us heirs of eternal life.
In your mercy you have washed us from our sins
and made us clean in your sight.
Yet we still fail to love you as we should
and serve you as we ought.
Forgive us our sins and renew us by your grace,
that we may continue to grow as members of Christ,
in whom alone is our salvation.
Amen.

⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:5-6

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 for ever.
Amen.

Sermon Notes

Retirement and our hopes | Passage: [Philippians 1:3-26](#), [Rev 22:1-5](#).

1. You have something to offer
2. You will need help
3. You can be loved into eternity

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Questions

1. What hopes for 'retirement' have you inherited from your past or the surrounding culture?

Read Philippians 1:3-26

Getting your head around the passage:

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

1. Where is Paul as he writes this?
 2. What is Paul confident about?
 3. What does he give thanks for?
 4. What does he hope and labour for?
 5. How does he view his situation? Why does he view it that way?
 6. How would you describe his view of the future?
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2. What does Paul's attitude say about seasons of life where we are 'less effective'?

 3. What goal should shape our work in every season (see vv.12-14)?

 4. What fears do you hold for retirement?

5. How does Paul's view (v.21) reshape our hopes and fears for retirement? (See also Rev 22:1-5)
6. What can your group do to encourage each other to focus on the heavenly promise?



GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video provided to your group leader.

1. Did anyone in your group have a good SRE experience (personally or for their child)? Share it with the group?
2. Who was an older adult who has encouraged you in your faith?

Prayer

1. Ask God to give you a fresh eternal perspective to work.
2. Pray God would use your approach to work and rest to stir friends and colleagues to seek Christ.

Read the Bible with us!

1. What is promised in this passage?
2. Why is this better than our current state?
3. How can you remember this promise today?

Monday - [Rev 22:1-5](#)
Tuesday - [Phil 1:18b-26](#)
Wednesday - [John 14:1-6](#)
Thursday - [Col 3:1-6](#)
Friday - [Rev 7:15-17](#)

Notices

Evangelism training night

The mission is bring our friends to faith in Jesus by proclaiming and living out the implications of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our recent National Church Life Survey results reflects a battle that all Christians often feel. We have the best news to share that Jesus is Lord and offers eternal life, yet we are afraid that nobody wants to hear this. How do we share Jesus with friends.



Our Evangelism Training nights are on Wed 8 and 15 June (7-9pm). We will be thinking about the reasons many people give for not coming to church. We will also be talking about what motivates people to attend church. If you have struggled to share Jesus with your friends, come along to be encouraged and equipped as we seek to bring our friends to faith. We will also spend time praying for our friends. For those who want it, dinner can be provided - cost \$10. Please register if you are coming so we can track numbers. [Register online](#), or talk to Gordon after the service.

Tax Deductible giving for SRE

St. Stephen's coordinates Protestant/Anglican Special Religious Education (SRE) at Willoughby Public school. We have a team of experienced teachers from local churches working closely with Willoughby Public. The government allows us to have a tax-deductible fund to cover SRE expenses. Under Religious Instruction in Government Schools (RIGS), you can support our SRE program and avail of tax benefits. Would you like to make a one-off tax-deductible gift to support SRE? We can receive up to \$12,000 this year. To know more, contact our Treasurer - Niall Henderson (nhenderson007@gmail.com). You will need the RIGS bank account details and the amount we can receive under RIGS.



St. Stephen's at Reach Conference

Last week our staff team went to the Central Coast to spend three days thinking about how our church life might continue to grow and enrich others; at a conference run by Reach Australia. The conference contained keynote talks (basically encouragements from the Bible) and workshops on various aspects of church life and planning; there were opportunities to meet other church leaders. Some were in a context similar to ours, while others had blessings and challenges different to ours. There were some very encouraging meetings around meals. Our staff came away encouraged by the continued faithfulness of God in building his church. We got some great inputs on continuing to deepen our love for God, for each other, and the surrounding community. Want to know more? Ask the staff – they would love to share some of their learnings with you.



Half Past Six Youth (HPS) at St. Stephen's

This year, we are looking to grow our Friday night youth activity. Every term, the aim is to invite 100 young adults to HPS. After three weeks, we reached out to 31 kids. We praise God for growing our young and giving them a heart for the lost, and for the two new people who have come! Join us in praying that many more would accept invitations and that youth would be excited to share Jesus with their friends.

Student Minister - Micah

Micah is one of our Student Ministers. He is in 3rd Year at Moore College. Previously, he was at church in Dundas. It's been great having Micah and Sophall with us this year. Micah is gifted; in Music ministry and music leadership. Together with Gordon and Penny Chilton, he is working to encourage, improve and grow our music teams. While at St. Stephen's, we hope to give Micah plenty of hands-on experience in ministry. If you would like to support him, reach out and chat with Micah on a Sunday. Get Micah's [prayer letter](#).



What's Coming Up

Monday 30th	Weekly Prayer Meeting - Zoom Link Meeting ID: 837 9111 9200 Passcode: qKga12
Tuesday 31st	Playtime Week — June —
Wednesday 1st	Hope Explored Course
Friday 3rd	Square One Camp - No HPS
Saturday 4th	Gossiping the Gospel Conference - Register Prayer Morning 8:30-8:55am - Zoom Link Meeting ID: 878 2345 9321 Passcode: 836532
Wednesday 8th	Evangelism Training Night - 1
Wednesday 15th	Evangelism Training Night - 2

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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