



# MISSION GIFT DAY

generosity beyond immediate community

Wk 5

## TODAY'S 9:45AM SERVICE:

- Welcome
- Song
- Confession
- Spotlight
- Song
- Bible Reading:  
[2 Cor 8:1-15](#)  
(Bible p.1161)
- Sermon
- Song
- Prayer
- Song
- Thanksgiving  
and Prayer
- Song
- Conclusion

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

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

## Sunday 28 August 2022

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

Welcome to St Stephen's. Great to have you with us as we celebrate all God has done for us. We really appreciate having new people and visitors with us. We would love to hear your experiences. Could you take a moment to fill in the Connect Card or use the QR Code to access an electronic version?



We come together for God's glory and to serve others. One of the best ways to give God the honour he is due is through prayers. Later in the service we will offer you the chance to share things you are thankful for. A microphone will be available. You can mention something you are thankful for and our prayer leader will compile them and lead us in prayer. As we try to focus on others, this takes shape in many ways. One way is by supporting those who go into far off lands, to indigenous communities and other people groups to introduce them to Jesus. Today we celebrate our link missionaries by praying for them and by giving to their work.

Keep an eye out for both these moments in the service, and then stick around for brunch!



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.

<sup>5</sup>But 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. <sup>6</sup>We 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

The Life Together | Passage: [2 Cor 8:1-15](#)

1. A different picture of community
  - a. The Macedonian Model
  - b. 2 ways to share & serve
2. More than good intentions & grand gestures
3. Centred on true beauty

“God reclaims ownership by paying an exorbitant price for what was already his.” (Kelly Kopic)

# Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Questions

1. When you think of 'Celebrating together' what pictures do you envisage?

## Read 2 Cor 8:1-15

### Getting your head around the passage:

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

1. What is beautiful about the Macedonian example?
  2. What is surprising about their behaviour?
  3. What does Paul want the Corinthians to rectify?
  4. What is Paul's desire for the Corinthians?
  5. What words repeat in the passage?
  6. What do we learn about God?
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2. Do you agree that serving and sharing should be hallmarks of the Christian community? What would you add?
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3. What can derail our generosity?

#### 4. How can God's generosity reshape your generosity?



#### **GaP Group Reflection**

**Watch the video provided to your group leader.**

1. Watch [this video](#) from our friends up at EV Church on the Central Coast. They are encouraging us to serve together in teams rather than simply allocated to slots on a roster. What did you like about what they said? What didn't you understand? What could we do differently here at St Stephen's as we seek to serve together?

#### **Prayer**

1. Ask God to grant us a church community who enjoy serving and sharing together.
2. Thank God for his generosity to us in Christ.

#### **Read the Bible with us!**

1. How does this passage encourage or challenge why you share your resources?
2. Pray God would continue to shape your heart toward generosity.

Monday - [2 Cor 9:10-11](#)  
Tuesday - [Acts 20:32-35](#)  
Wednesday - [Matt 6:1-4](#)  
Thursday - [Matt 6:19-24](#)  
Friday - [Deut 15:7-8](#)

## Notices



### Vision Series Week Five

Our fourth core characteristic is Celebrating together for the glory of Christ. Meeting with God's people should not be a chore. It is simply the best gift we receive on earth. God has drawn us into his family at no cost to ourselves.

When a young child finds out they are having a sibling they are so excited.

Finally, someone to share their life with, someone who tempers their loneliness, someone who they can enjoy their treasures with. The sibling is not perfect, but they are joined by blood. So too us. Joined by the blood of Christ we are given a family to share life with, find comfort in and share our treasures with. Will you embrace this? What can you share, who can you serve, and can you do this with joy? There are many opportunities to serve and share at St Stephen's. Have a look at the Connect Card or speak to a staff member who will gladly help you find the right way.

### Praying for the Vision Series

How can you respond to our Vision Series? Our 1st suggestion is prayer. Would you consider joining one of our two weekly prayer meetings? Details on the back cover. Can you also include your church family in your daily prayers?



Here are some ways you can pray for us:

1. Pray God would grant us Gospel Optimism: a belief we will answer our prayers in ways we cannot imagine and in line with his plan and purpose.
2. Pray God would help each member of St Stephen's to bring their friends to faith in Christ.
3. Pray God might grow the young in their devotion to God's word.
4. Pray God would deepen our church relationships on Sundays and within our GaP Groups so that Jesus is glorified.



## Father's Day @ St. Stephen's

Come celebrate Father's Day with us at St Stephen's on Sunday, the 4th of September (next week). We will also be looking at a famous parable narrated by Jesus, the one about the Lost Son. Using this story we aim to peer into the heart of our Heavenly Father. There will be a free doughnut decorating session! Why not bring Dad along? Or someone who's like a father? Or if you are a dad, why not bring your kids along? We will give thanks and pray for all our fathers and remember that we can call God our Father because of Jesus.



## Dreaming and Planning Meeting

Our 2nd Dreaming and Planning meeting for the relaunch of our Sunday afternoon service is today. Our 1st meeting was an encouraging start, with over 30 people turning up. We would like to meet more visitors who are interested in the venture. If you have someone who might be interested in joining us as we relaunch a Fresh afternoon service, please feel free to bring them along to our meeting. It is in

the afternoon at 3:30pm. We plan to discuss new ministry ideas, ways of strengthening a new community and a timeframe for moving forward. We hope to raise up a launch team of 50 members. Would you pray for God's provision?

## Lego Afternoon - K-6 Students

On Wednesday, 7th September, we are holding a lego afternoon for kids in Kindergarten to Year 6. It's a chance for kids to invite their friends to have a fun afternoon playing with lego and hearing about Jesus. Pray this will be a great connection point with our wider community. The afternoon is being held in conjunction with the International Chinese School students that are on site. Who can you bring along?

**When:** Wednesday, 7th September

**Time:** 3:30-4:30pm **Where:** Chapel Hall

## What's Coming Up

Sunday 28th	Dreaming & Planning Meeting No.2 for Evening Service — September —
Sunday 4th	Father's Day - Free Doughnut decorating session @ 9:45 Service Bring Sunday for our Sunday Kids program
Monday 5th	Weekly Prayer Meeting - <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> Meeting ID: 837 9111 9200   Passcode: qKga12
Tuesday 6th	Playtime - Week 5 - <a href="#">Register</a>
Friday 9th	Half Past Six Simply Christianity - Week 3.
Saturday 10th	Prayer Morning 8:30-8:55am - <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> Meeting ID: 878 2345 9321   Passcode: 836532

## Our Staff - Contact Us!



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