

Jesus above all

The Letter to the Colossians



Wk 1

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

- Welcome
- Songs
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
[Colossians 1:1-14](#)
(Bible p.539)
- Sermon
- Prayer
- Holy Communion
- 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 9 October 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. We're glad you can join us today. Whether you are simply visiting a friend or you are checking out church for the 1st time it's great to have you with us. Let us know how you found church by filling in the QR code form.



Today we celebrate Holy Communion in each of our services. It's a part of our service time which originates at the Last Supper which Jesus had with his disciples. When we pause, remember the death of Jesus and eat the bread and wine we are declaring in a physical way what we believe to be true - by faith Christ dwells in us and has dealt with our sin. If you do not currently consider yourself a follower of Christ then feel free to watch along, listen to what is being said and prayed and consider the prayers on the inside cover of this booklet. It's great having you with us. Participating in Holy Communion is not simply a tradition we opt into, it is a reflection of a deep commitment to Jesus.

This week we are also beginning our new series in Paul's letter to the Colossians. This New Testament letter gives us a big view of Jesus. We hope you are encouraged by the series.

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 it is 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

Sermon Notes

Distinct Speech | Passage: Colossians 1:1-14

1. Who we speak to.

2. What speak about and how we speak.

With grace

With gratitude

For God's will

3. Why we speak distinctly.

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Questions

1. What do you speak most naturally about? What topics are you most comfortable sharing with others?

Read Colossians 1:1-14

Getting your head around the passage:

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

1. Identify the various people mentioned. Who are they and how are they related to each other?
2. What does Paul give thanks for?
3. What does Paul pray for?
4. What does Paul hope will happen to the Colossians?
5. What has God done according to this chapter?

2. What is different about Paul's prayers compared to yours?
3. How and where can you apply the following aspects of Paul's prayer example?

Praying graciously for others	Praying gratefully for others	Praying for God's will to be known

4. What can restrict and constrain our natural tendency to pray?

5. How does the good news offered by Jesus answer/overcome the hurdles you spoke about in question 4?
6. What changes can your group make to shape your prayer life around Paul's example in Col 1?



GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video provided to your group leader.

1. How have you felt in light of the recent events surrounding the Essendon Football Club and appointment/removal of Andrew Thornburn?
2. How can we encourage each other and find courage and comfort from Jesus this week?

Prayer

1. Spend time giving thanks to God. Avoid simply moving to requests.
2. Bring the needs of a non-Christian friend before you group and pray for them.

Read the Bible with us!

1. Read the suggested verses for the day 7 times. What strikes you after the 1st time and the 7th time?
2. How should this shape your prayers?
3. Who can you pray for?

Monday - Col 1:1-2
Tuesday - Col 1:3-4
Wednesday - Col 1:6
Thursday - Col 1:9-12
Friday - Col 1:13-14

Notices

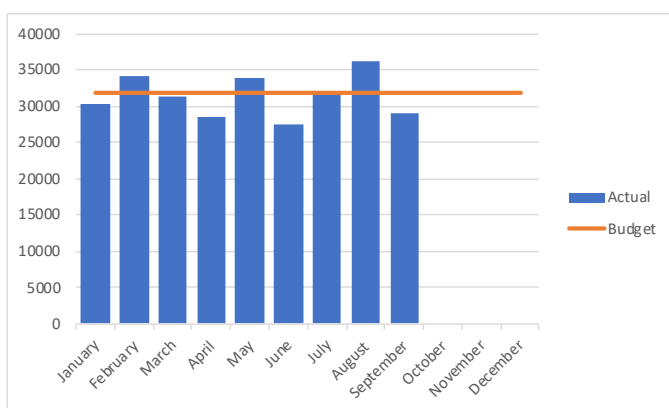
New Sermon Series - Colossians

This week we begin a new series looking at the New Testament letter to the Colossian church. As we work through this book we hope that we can take time to reflect on the bible, allow it to shape our desires and prayers and drive us to worship of God.

If you are not in a weekly Gospel and Prayer Group you are missing out! These groups are great regular ways to read the Bible with other Christians, consider its message, its implications and its comforts. The groups help us to pray in ways that reflect the good news of Jesus. Over this coming term many of our GaP Groups will be working through a concurrent series looking at the letter to the Colossians. Why not join one this term. If you are interested please contact Prash and he will discuss the best group fit for you.

Finance Update

Thank you to our many regulars who financially support the ministry of our church family. The regular giving of members allows us to share the good news of Jesus with many people, plan for upcoming



ministries, invest in areas we as a church think are worthwhile and care for each other when difficult times hit.

If you have been considering giving to the ministry here but have not yet had a chance visit our 'give' page on the website for more details.

Update on Fresh!

Over the past 2 months we have begun a process leading to relaunching a new service. We had interest meetings in August. We currently have a team of 30 people who are keen to be part of something 'fresh'. If you are interested in joining the team come to our next Planning and Prayer meeting on **Sunday 16 October from 4-5pm in Chapel Hall**. We are praying 20 more people will join our team over the coming months. We are praying God will grant us fresh and engaging means of reaching people with the gospel.

A Taste of LIFE – Wed 26 October

On Wednesday, 26 October, we invite our community to join us and explore life's big questions over food and drinks. We will be exploring different wine and food pairings. Wilson Toh (7:45am Service) will bring meats smoked in his smoker. Non-alcoholic wine will also be available; tickets are \$10 per person. You can buy tickets at website. This night will be a taster of the *Life Course* (which will continue the following three Wednesday nights). Guests can continue looking into life with Jesus and the Christian faith. We know that many of your friends have questions about life. We hope this night will help them ask their questions and look into life with Jesus. Who could you bring along? To reserve your spot visit st-stephens.com.au/spring.



The Life Course – 2nd, 9th, and 16th of November

One of biggest claims made by Jesus is that He has come so “that we may have life and have it to the full” (John 10:10). The Christian faith is more than just a set of beliefs. It is a life to be lived, a life with purpose, and a life in relationship with Jesus. The Life Course explores what such a life looks like. Each night is a chance to hear what Jesus says about life, and ask any questions you may have—all over food and drinks. It’s an opportunity to explore Jesus and the Christian faith.

Kids and Youth Programmes

Kids and youth programmes starting back for Term 4. Who can you bring along? We are also looking for team members to help in various kids and youth ministries. For more information, email Pippie Krebs - Kids and Youth Minister at pippie@st-stephens.com.au.

1. 11th October: Playtime – For kids under 5 and their carers.
Tuesday 9:30-11:30 am
2. 16th October: Sunday Kids + Youth- During our 9:45 am program.
3. 21st October: Half Past Six Youth group- Years 5-9. Friday 6:30-8:30pm. We play games, eat food and learn about Jesus.

What's Coming Up

Sunday 9th	GaP Group Leaders Meeting at 11:30am in Hainsworth
Tuesday 11th	Playtime resumes
Sunday 16th	Sunday Kids & Youth programmes resume
Friday 21st	Half Past Six Youth Group resumes
Wednesday 26th	A Taste of Life (opening night of the Life Course)
Sunday 30th	Newish Morning Tea

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