

Jesus above all

The Letter to the Colossians



Wk 3

Sunday 23 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.

TODAY'S 9:45AM SERVICE:

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
[Colossians 1:24 - 2:5](#)
(Bible p.1183)
- Sermon
- 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

Welcome to St Stephen's. Great to have you join us today. We have many people visit us or join us throughout the year. If that's you, we're so glad to have you! Would you take a moment and let us know how you found your time here? You can chat with one of the staff (see the back cover for photos) or use the Connect Card. An electronic version of the card is accessible through the QR Code.



The year is flying past us. You may be feeling overwhelmed by what is on your plate. Or perhaps you are energised by the things happening in your life, and your aim is to get the most out of it. Either way, building our lives around Jesus is the key. Last week we were reminded about the supremacy of Jesus (listen to last week's sermon on our website if you've missed it). When we see that Jesus is supreme over all things and he is the one for whom all things exist. We find comfort in our times of anxiety and a purpose that shapes our efforts.

Our great desire on Sundays is to keep presenting Jesus to you. Come and worship him.

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.

⁶The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.

Exodus 34:6-7a

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 it is 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 necessity of church ministry | Passage: Colossians 1:24-2:5

1. The purpose of church life

2. The experience of church life

Strenuous labour

Challenging comfort

3. The comfort for church life

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Questions

1. “Not all Christians receive this blessing (of physical gathering). The imprisoned, the sick, the scattered lonely, the proclaimers of the Gospel in heathen lands stand alone. They know that visible fellowship is a blessing... The physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer.” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*)

What is he saying? Do you agree? What stops us from appreciating church life?

Read Colossians 1:24 - 2:5

Getting your head around the passage:

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

1. What is the true purpose of Paul's ministry?
2. How would Paul describe his job?
3. What words does Paul use to describe his approach to ministry?
4. Who does Paul work for?
5. What does knowing Christ bring?

2. What is the true and primary purpose of church life?

3. What other goals sometimes get our attention?

4. What stops us / discourages us / impedes us from contending and labouring for the spiritual maturity of others at St Stephen's?

5. What gifts does maturity in Christ bring? What comfort is there for those who labour and contend?

6. How can our response to *question 5* deal with the impediments of *question 4*?



GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video provided to your group leader.

1. Would you say that people growing towards maturity in Christ is a crucial goal for us? If not, what would you say and why?
2. How can we continue to make maturity in Christ a characteristic of our church community?

Prayer

1. Ask God to give you a desire for maturity in Christ.
2. Pray for opportunities to serve others so they grow toward maturity in Christ.

Read the Bible with us!

1. Read the suggested verses for the day seven 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 1:24](#)
Tuesday - [Col 1:28-29](#)
Wednesday - [Col 2:2-3](#)
Thursday - [Col 2:4](#)
Friday - [Col 2:5](#)

Notices

Memorial Service Suellen Grellman

The Grellman family would like to invite friends and church members of Suellen to attend her memorial service at St. Stephen's on Thursday, 27th October at 11am. A lunch will be served after in the Chapel Hall.

Prayer Morning on 5th November

As a church we want to be made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ. We want to see people made more like Jesus in character and conviction. We want to be a cosmopolitan melting pot of cultures. People who come together to serve Jesus from all nations and from different generations. We want to see more and more people join us. We want every street within 2km of our church to have a member of our church sharing Christ. These are bold desires. They are not possible without God. So we pray! Join us as we pray together on Saturday, 5th November. From 9:30am to 11am as a church family. There is plenty for kids and youth to participate in as well. We will finish the prayer time with morning tea. Setting this time aside will be worth it for us as a church and for each person individually. God longs to hear us!



Newish Morning Tea next Sunday!

It is natural to feel out of place or unsure about things in any new situation, and coming to a new Church is no different. We aim to make St. Stephen's accessible to everyone, especially if you are new. We know there are still things you might not know or would like more information about.

Newish Morning Tea is a space where you hear an outline of our Church life & structures and work out how best to find your home here.

Newish morning tea is coming up soon! 30th October 2022. Talk to Jill after the service or send her an email at jill@st-stephens.com.au.

A Taste of LIFE – Wed 26 Oct

Many want to ponder about life's big questions. They don't know how and where to do that—that's what this night is all about. It's a night to enjoy great food & drinks while thinking about life. There will be interesting wine and food pairings to try. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic wine will be available, along with a three course meal (including smoked meats). Book your place at ststephens.com.au/spring. Tickets are \$10 per person. Registration closes on Sunday. This night is a taster of the Life Course that will continue for the following three Wednesday nights (2nd, 9th and 16th of November).



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

The Life course is a free course that will continue after A Taste of Life. It's for anyone who wants to explore faith, life and Jesus. Each night goes from 7-9pm over food and drinks with a small, friendly group. Each night will have some discussion time, a short talk and Q&A. No prior knowledge or church experience is required. This course is an opportunity to hear what Jesus says about life and ask any questions you may have.



Bring Sunday - 30th Oct.

'Bring Sunday' is a chance for kids to bring their non-Christian friends to church so they can hear about Jesus. At St Stephen's, we want to (in partnership with families) flood a pathway that takes children ages 1-18 from unbelief to biblically shaped faith. So, we have decided to have 'Bring Sundays'. Last term, we had someone bring a friend along and praise God that child has continued to attend.

Please pray that families would be bold in inviting people and we would have many kids come and join our church.

What's Coming Up

Monday 24th	Weekly Prayer Meeting - Zoom Link Meeting ID: 837 9111 9200 Passcode: qKga12
Tuesday 25th	Playtime - 9:30am to 11:30am
Wednesday 26th	A Taste of Life (opening night of the Life Course) Register
Friday 28th	Half Past Six Youth Group
Saturday 29th	Prayer Morning 8:45-9:15am - Onsite
Sunday 30th	Newish Morning Tea - after 9:45am service Kids program: Bring Sunday — November—
Saturday 5th	Prayer Morning, 9:30am to 11am in Chapel Hall

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