

Jesus above all

The Letter to the Colossians



Wk 6

TODAY'S 9:45AM SERVICE:

- Welcome
- Song
- Confession
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
[Colossians 3:12-17](#)
(Bible p.1184)
- Sermon
- Song
- 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 13 November 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 join us this Sunday. If you are new or visiting we are so glad you decided to spend time with us. We want you to feel welcome, find your place here and explore the message of Jesus.

We would love it if you could let us know how you found your time by filling our connect card. You can scan the QR Code for the electronic version or use the hard copy version.



We are celebrating 'Gift Day' today. Each year we have a day set aside where our church family gives an additional financial gift to help support the ministry. Our members give regularly through the year, but gift day is an opportunity to reflect on the year's blessings, the joy of time together and pour out ourselves as an act of thanksgiving. When we give to church life, we are giving to bless our church family – affirming how much we value the community that Christ is building. To celebrate Gift Day, we will head to Bales Park for a picnic lunch (after the 9:45am Service). There will be a sausage sizzle we hope that you can join us.

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

Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

1 Peter 3:18a

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.

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Questions

1. What do most non-christians think happens in Church life and why?

Read Colossians 3:12-17

Getting your head around the passage:

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

1. Who are Christians?
 2. What are we meant to do and what is most important?
 3. What is the motivation?
 4. What should mark our time together?
 5. What attitude towards God should we have?
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2. Look through the qualities of God's people listed in v.12. Have you experienced them from someone at St. Stephen's?
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3. Which quality do you find hardest to practice and why?
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4. How do you respond when church members let you down? What does Paul encourage us to think in these moments? (see v. 3&4)

5. Why would the word of Christ help us to improve our community(v.16)?
6. How can we let Christ's word dwell amongst us more?



GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video provided to your group leader.

1. Why is generosity a hallmark of God's people?
2. Share some stories of times you've seen Christians be generous to others and the encouragement you have found.

Prayer

1. Ask God to help you change in response to your answer to Question 3.
2. Thank God for his blessings on St. Stephen's - maybe share and pray about specific examples.

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 3:12](#)
Tuesday - [Col 3:13](#)
Wednesday - [Col 3:14](#)
Thursday - [Col 3:16](#)
Friday - [Col 3:17](#)

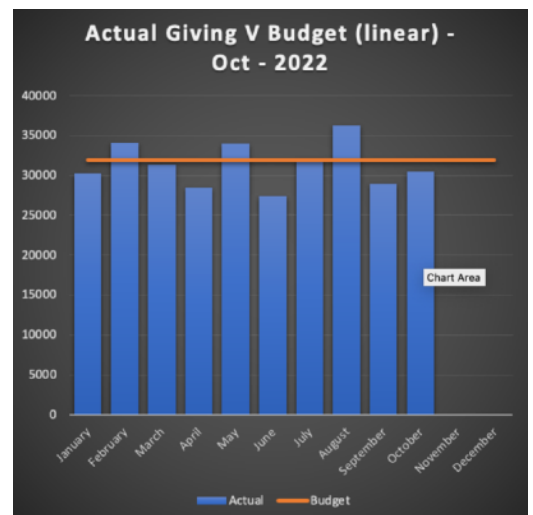
Notices

Gift Day Today!

This Sunday, is identified as 'Gift Day' in our church calendar. Throughout the year, our regular members give to the ministry of St Stephen's in regular ways (see the notice below). However, once a year we set aside an opportunity to give an additional one-off gift to the ministry of our church. For many this is a way of reflecting their thanksgiving for all God has done through the past year. This year our 'Gift Day' aims to raise **\$50,000**. These funds will help us continue our ministry to the local area, grow our young in their devotion to God's word and continue to aid the life of our church. You can give using the 'Give' page on our website.

Finances

Thank you to those who regularly support the ministry of our church. As 2022 comes to a close, we have much to be thankful. God has used the financial generosity of our church to enable a lot of great ministries, to see people come to faith, to introduce Jesus to over 25 different non-Christian friends, to run SRE at Willoughby Public and lots more. If you would like information on how to set up regular giving, visit the give page on our website.



Picnic @ Bales Park -13th Nov

Our friends play an incredible role in the shaping of our beliefs. This is why Sam Chan says a critical step in evangelism is getting our non-Christian and Christian friends together and helping them become friends. Picnic at Bales Park is an excellent place for this to happen. The team running playtime has worked hard to bring playtime families to the picnic. At the picnic, do help us out by making friends with these families. We pray that when they get to know more people from church they will be more likely to accept future invites, events and courses. When? After the 9:45am service. Where? Bales Park, Willoughby. What to bring? Picnic rug and food (we will provide a sausage sizzle)

Kids' afternoon club - 18th Nov.

Did you know that there are approximately 4,000 kids who live within 2km of our church? At the moment, we connect with less than 5% of them. On Friday, 18th November, we are holding a one-off kids' afternoon club in partnership with the International Chinese School. It will be a fun afternoon with games and hearing about Jesus. Who can you bring along?



When: Friday 18th November, *Time:* 3:30-4:30 pm.
Where: Chapel Hall. *Who:* Kindergarten - Year 4.



Life Course - Week 2

This week, we spoke about the resurrection of Jesus and discussed what it meant for us. One of the guests called the LIFE course the highlight of her week. This coming week is our last week of the Life course. Please pray for people who have started exploring God's word in the Life course. We hope they continue their exploration by attending our 2023 Term 1 Bring course, the **Alpha course and the**

Lunar New Year Dinner (dates to be confirmed).

Belonging Course:

Sunday, 27 November, from 12-3pm, we will be running a '**Belonging**' course. You could be new, or you may have been for a while. If you want to get more involved or understand St Stephen's better, **Belonging** is the best way to understand our church. We will spend the afternoon looking at the Bible, our goals as a church and where you could fit in. You will also meet others like you, interact with our pastoral staff, and enjoy a great lunch. We will also have a children's program. The church should be clear and accessible, and the individual needs to take steps. We want you here! Would you consider coming to **Belonging**? Email Jill at jill@st-stephens.com.au for details and to register.

What's Coming Up

Sunday 13th	Picnic at Bales Park (Willoughby) after 9:45am service. Gift Day
Monday 14th	Weekly Prayer Meeting - Zoom Link Meeting ID: 837 9111 9200 Passcode: qKga12
Tuesday 15th	Playtime - 9:30am to 11:30am
Wednesday 16th	Life Course, 7-9pm.
Friday 18th	Kids Afternoon Club, 3:30-4:30pm, Chapel Hall.
Saturday 19th	Prayer Morning 8:45-9:15am - Onsite
Sunday 20th	Letterbox Drop for Carols begin
Sunday 27th	Belonging Course, Noon to 3pm. Chapel Hall.

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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