

Jesus above all

The letter to the Colossians



Wk 7

TODAY'S 9:45AM SERVICE:

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
[Colossians 3:18-4:1](#)
(Bible p.1184)
- 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

Sunday 20 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 at church. We hope you find today's service engaging, challenging, and ultimately it shapes the crucial aspects of our life. We would love to hear from you today.

Can you scan the QR code or the hard copy version and let us know how you found the church?



What are we about as a church? Our vision statement says, "We long to be a church made beautiful, diverse, and large by the gracious work of Christ." We want to be transformed from what we are to what Christ can make us. We think St Stephen's is pretty great in many ways, and yet we know God can work to shape us into something far more beautiful. Will you come along with us for the journey?

It's time to plan for Christmas and the hope it brings. After the service, you will find packs of Christmas cards that you can use to invite your family and friends to our various Christmas celebration moments. Grab a bundle for your family and friends, and grab one to put in nearby letterboxes. We're praying this will be the start of the journey God takes us on.

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

Most merciful God,
we humbly admit that we need your help.
We confess that we have wandered from your way:
we have done wrong, and we have failed to do what is right.
You alone can save us.
Have mercy on us:
wipe out our sins and teach us to forgive others.
Bring forth in us the fruit of the Spirit
that we may live as disciples of Christ.
This we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen

¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:15-16

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

God in our private spaces | Passage: Colossians 3:18-4:1

1. Christ rules in private spaces

2. Christ rules in our hearts

3. Christ rules by the cross

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Questions

1. What do you think about the view that you have to give up some of your freedoms in order to be truly free?

Read Colossians 3:18-4:1

Getting your head around the passage:

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

1. What does Paul encourage each group to do?
 2. What limitations does he place on his encouragement to slaves and wives?
 3. What motivations does he refer to?
 4. What part does Jesus play in these encouragements?
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2. What reasons do we have for being wary of submission as posture toward others?
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3. How does Paul address these concerns in this part of the letter?

Read Philippians 2:5-11

4. If Jesus is the model for all parties in the Colossians passage, how are our fears and uncertainties answered?



GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video provided to your group leader.

1. Consider the friends you have who do not know Christ. Are they comfortable talking with you about faith issues? How can you deepen that friendship so you can more readily speak about them?
2. Share some stories of times you've seen Christians be generous to others and the encouragement you have found.

Prayer

1. Pray for spouses/parents/workers/employees of your group. Ask God to grant wisdom, godliness, submissiveness, loving, and just hearts.
2. Who can you pray would accept an invitation to our Lunar New Year event in 2023?

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 3:18-19](#)
Tuesday - [Col 3:20-21](#)
Wednesday - [Col 3:22](#)
Thursday - [Col 3:23-24](#)
Friday - [Col 4:1](#)

Notices

Thank you for Gift Day!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Gift Day this year. Regulars will have (or may still) received a letter from Prash regarding gift day. As of Friday last week, we had 40% of households give! It is a beautiful expression of generosity. Thank you to the many people who gave. While we didn't get to have our picnic at Bales Park, it was still a great chance to gather and give thanks for all God has done in our church life this year at each of our services last week.



Register for Belonging Course.

Next Sunday, the 27th, from noon to 3pm, we are holding our next instalment of the Belonging Course. It will give you an in-depth look at the life, vision, mission and focus of our church. Every member of our church should do this course at some point. It will give you a chance to ask your questions, confirm your role in the church's life and meet others you may not have met before. We include lunch and

afternoon tea. Everyone who has done the course so far has enjoyed the experience. We cater for kids too. Please RSVP to Jill (contact details are at the back of the booklet).

Volunteers for Carols on the Grass.

Our Christmas events can only happen with the help of volunteers. A range of jobs needs to be attended to for our Carols on the Grass event. Allan Saxby is looking for two teams of helpers for setting up and packing up. Team 1 helps to set up in the afternoon on Friday, 9th December. They also help to pack up after the Carols on Saturday, 10th December. Team 2 will be responsible for setting up on Saturday morning, 10th December. If you would like to volunteer, please email Gordon (email is at the back of the booklet).





Letter Box Drop!

Christmas is the time of the year when our neighbours are most likely to come to our church and hear about Jesus. Last year, more than 300 people came to our Carols on the Grass event, and this was when we had just come out of a Covid lockdown! Our Christmas invitation cards to Christmas have arrived. We need as much help as we can to do the letterbox drop. We want to invite everyone in Willoughby to

celebrate Christmas with us. The cards are available at the back of the Church. Have you decide your route?

Kids Program in 2023!

As we inch closer to the end of 2022, now would be a great time to plan what kid's ministry at St. Stephen's is going to look like in 2023. The strategy we have developed for kids and youth ministry is as follows. In partnership with families, we want to flood a pathway that takes children ages 1-18 from unbelief to biblically shaped active faith.



Starting next year, we are creating a path specifically designed for kids from Kindergarten to Year four. We will launch a Kid's Club that will run on Friday afternoons. It will be a place where our Christian kids can bring their friends to hear about Jesus. This club is a great idea because:

1. There are many non-Christian families in our area.
2. Midweek is a more accessible time to families than Sunday.
3. Early primary school is a time in the lives of families when they are open to the gospel and trying new activities.
4. We have lots of church kids moving into this demographic next year.

Please pray for this ministry, and email Pippie (email is at the back of the booklet) if you want to be involved.

What's Coming Up

Sunday 20th	Letterbox Drop for Carols on the Grass.
Monday 21st	Weekly Prayer Meeting - Zoom Link Meeting ID: 837 9111 9200 Passcode: qKga12
Tuesday 22nd	Playtime - 9:30am to 11:30am
Friday 25th	Half Past Six Youth Group. 6:30-8:30pm
Saturday 26th	Prayer Morning 8:45-9:15am - Onsite
Sunday 27th	Belonging Course, Noon to 3pm. Chapel Hall. — December —
Saturday 10th	Carols on the Grass, 5pm to 7:30pm. Tickets available @ st-stephens.com.au/summer .

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