

This is God



The life of Jesus according to John's Gospel

Wk 11

**TODAY'S
9:45AM**

SERVICE:

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
[John 14:1-14](#)
(Bible p.1081)
- 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 19 February 2023

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

Welcome to St Stephen's. It's great to have you with us this Sunday morning. We think there is no better place to be on a Sunday morning. Let us know how you found church today when you chat with one of our staff or regulars. You can also reach out to us using the Connect Card. There is a hard copy (in this booklet), and an electronic one is accessible using the QR Code.



We are focussing (today) on our Gospel & Prayer (GaP) Groups – midweek bible study groups. Glenn Davies, a member of our 9:45am Service, oversees our morning GaP Groups. Glenn will also be preaching at our service. He's continuing our series by looking at Jesus's words to his disciples while they shared the last supper together.

Glenn is passionate about the Bible. He became a Christian when he was young and has devoted most of his adult life to teaching the Bible and helping others do it too. He knows how important reading the Bible with others and praying together is. This year he is looking after our Morning Service GaP Groups. We hope you find the morning engaging and encouraging.

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

Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed:
we have not loved you with our whole heart,
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves:
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

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

One way to God | John 14:1-14

Glenn Davies

1. A challenge for our time
Pluralism, Inclusivism, Postmodernism

2. The Way, the Truth and the Life
 - A. Knowing God

 - B. Knowing Jesus

 - C. Indwelt by the Spirit

3. Jesus builds a new temple
 - A. The Father's house

 - B. Many dwellings in our Father's temple

 - C. The dwelling of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in us

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. 'Do not let your hearts be troubled.' What troubles you the most in your Christian life?

Read John 14:1-14

Getting your head around the passage:

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

1. Why are the disciples troubled (v1)? Read 13:31-38 and then Psalm 42:5.
 2. How does Jesus' response calm their troubles (v2) in the present?
 3. Is Jesus talking about the disciples' life on earth or their future life in heaven in (v2)? Note: 'My Father's house' is a reference to the temple (2:16), which Jesus will rebuild (2:21) and include his disciples during their earthly life. Read John 14:18-23. 4.
 4. How does Jesus answer Thomas' question in (v5), without saying where he is going?
 5. What are the different emphases of way, truth and life in (v6)?
 6. What are the greater works that believers in Jesus might do (v12)?
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2. Why is it important that Jesus goes to the Father, before he can continue his ministry to the disciples and prepare a place [dwelling] for them, so that 'where I am you may be also' (v3)?
 3. What does it mean for the Christian's body to be a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) and how should that affect our behaviour?

4. In a pluralistic society, what kind of offence might the words of Jesus in (v6) create? How can we be faithful to Jesus' words and not give offence to people – or is offence inevitable?
5. What does Jesus mean when he says, 'If you have seen me you have seen the Father'? What would you say to someone who said: 'If I could only see God, I would believe'?
6. How does the knowledge that Jesus and the Father dwell in you, affect your response to Question 1?



GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video provided to your group leader.

1. How can your group encourage each other to have gospel shaped optimism about life and service of God?
2. What ways can you remind yourself of the promises God has made to you this week?

Prayer

1. Share with the group the parts of your life where it seems hardest to follow Jesus and pray for each other.
2. Pray that God might remind us of his presence and so shape our life accordingly.

Read the Bible with us!

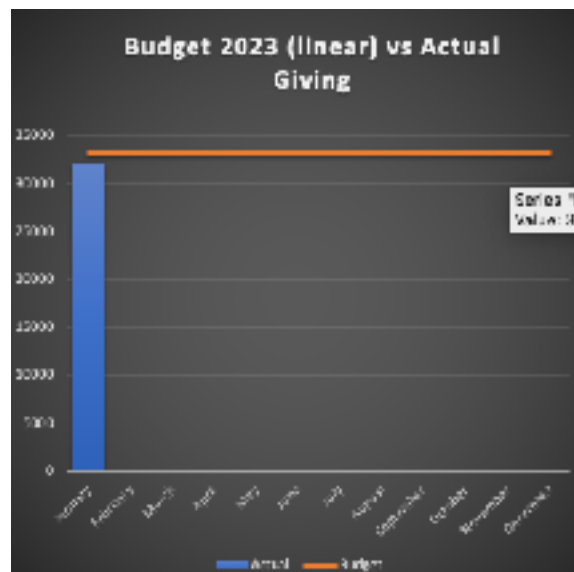
1. How does the reality that God dwells with his people & they with him shape our lives?
2. What hope do you need to hold on to as you seek to live faithfully for God?
3. Spend time praying that God will encourage you to live for him this week.

Monday - [John 14:1-14](#)
Tuesday - [John 2:13-25](#)
Wednesday - [Psalms 42](#)
Thursday - [1 Cor 6:12-20](#)
Friday - [2 Tim 1:13-14](#)

Notices

Finances Jan 2023

It's a new year with new opportunities! We've started a Friday Kids Club & we've launched a new Night Church congregation. Along with this we have many of our regular ministries starting up. Our church life is rich with opportunity and possibility. We long to, and have rejoiced over the chance to, welcome new people in our church.



The life of our church is supported by the parishioners at St Stephen's. On Vision Sunday we talked about having servant hearts with our wealth and possessions. Let us consider how we can continue to financially resource the ministry and life of our church. If you would like to start giving or increase your giving for the year, visit our 'Give' page on the website for more details.

NSW Election Forum

Want to get some clarity about what our state government leaders and candidates think (as you near the NSW election)? We will be hosting Liberal, Labour and independent candidates for the Willoughby Electorate on Monday, 27 February, at 7:30pm, in the Chapel Hall. Please join us.

Come to Alpha...

On Wednesday, at Alpha, we looked at who Jesus is and the historical evidence for his existence and ministry. Alpha is a friendly and engaging space for conversations about life, faith, and Jesus. We enjoyed dinner together, watched a short video, and have discussions. We are more than happy to welcome newcomers. Want to try Alpha? Come along this Wednesday night, 7-9pm. Register at st-stephens.com.au/summer. It's free!!!



Friday Kids

Thank you so much for your prayers! Friday Kids had a great start. Ten kids attended last week, including two new families. We had afternoon tea, played games, learnt about Jesus, and had lots of fun. Please continue to pray for the program. Pray God would grow this ministry, and many families would come to know Jesus through it.

Music training at St. Stephen's

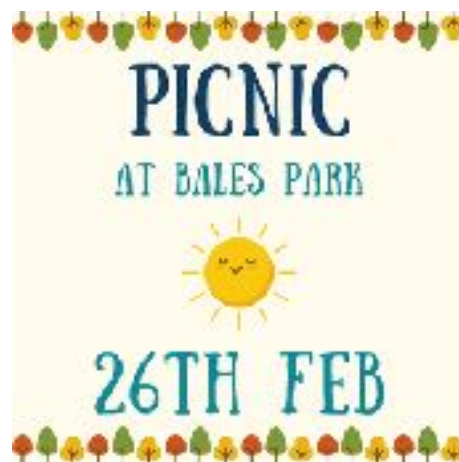


We have seen significant growth in our 9.45am music team over the last 18 months. These achievements can largely be attributed to the time, energy, and hard work put in by the church volunteers. How great it is to sing aloud again after years of Covid-inflicted restrictions. Micah and Penny are running a music training hour from 11am-12pm today (in the church).

These music training hours are for any existing music team members and anyone interested in having a taste of serving on the music team. There will be some time in the Bible thinking about music at church, praying together, and making music together. We plan to run music training on the 3rd Sunday of the month (except during school holidays).

Picnic @ Bales Park

Next Sunday, after the 9:45am service, our church is going to Bales Park for a picnic. We will be spending quality time together (along with our Playtime families), having food, playing games, and having fun. It will be a relaxed environment, perfect for the whole family. We hope this will be an opportunity to connect our Playtime families with our church.



When: Sunday 26th February

Time: After 9:45am service

Where: Bales Park Willoughby

Bring: Picnic blanket, something to eat, games to play with others

What's Coming Up

Monday 20th	Weekly Prayer Meeting - Zoom Link - from 8:45-9:15am Meeting ID: 837 9111 9200 Passcode: qKga12 Town Hall Meeting for redevelopment plan From 7:30 to 9pm in the Chapel Hall
Tuesday 21st	Playtime. From 9:30 to 11:30am.
Wednesday 22nd	Alpha Week 2 - Joins Us! It's free.
Friday 24th	Friday Kids club. From 3:30pm to 5:00pm
Friday 24th	Half Past Six Youth Group. From 6:30pm to 8:30pm
Saturday 25th	Prayer Meeting - Onsite (Creche Room) 8:30am to 9am
Monday 27th	NSW Election Forrum, at 7:30pm, in the Chapel Hall.

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