

This is God



The life of Jesus according to John's Gospel

Wk 12

TODAY'S 9:45AM SERVICE:

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
[John 14:15-31](#)
(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 26 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. We're glad to have you with us. There is no better place to be on a Sunday than Church. We would love to hear how you found the morning service. You can chat with one of the staff after the service or use the Connect Card (an electronic one is available via the QR Code).



Today, our 9:45am community is walking to Bales Park after church to enjoy a picnic. We're blessed to enjoy the sun, grassed ovals, and days off on Sunday. The Bible tells us that "all good things come from the father of lights". God is the giver of good gifts. He loves to show his generosity. We experience that most richly in the gift of his Son, Jesus. Jesus died on a Roman Cross over 2000 years ago to make a way for all people to know the love of God. This gift is ours if we want it. We simply take Jesus on as Lord. This gift is also why we, as a church, exist. We are shaped deeply by the grace of God to us.

We hope you enjoy your time with 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

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.

¹If anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ²He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1b-2

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

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. 'What do you find most confusing about the Holy Spirit?

2. How likely are you to talk about the Holy Spirit to a non-Christian? Why?

Read John 14:15-31

Getting your head around the passage:

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

1. What words does Jesus use (in this passage) to describe the Holy Spirit? (v.16, 17, and 26)
2. What will the Spirit do for the disciples, according to Jesus in verses 15, 16, 17, 23, 26, and 27?
3. Why does Jesus tell his disciples about the Holy Spirit? (v.18 and 28)
4. What does this passage teach us about the Three Persons of the Trinity (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit)?

3. How might the promises and teachings (about the Holy Spirit) of Jesus be comforting to his disciples at that moment?

4. Discuss how the Spirit helps us:
 - a. Love Jesus and keep His commands. (v.15)

 - b. Understand and be reminded of Christ's words. (v.26)

 - c. Have peace and not be troubled. (v.27)

5. God dwelling in us by His Holy Spirit is one of the many unique truths of Christianity. What might be attractive about this to a non-Christian?



GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video provided to your group leader.

1. Why do you think SRE is an important ministry? What excites you about SRE this year?
2. Pip spoke about several ways you could support this ministry. Which ones could you do?

Prayer

1. Share with the group any moment (in your life) when you might feel alone or "orphaned" as a Christian, and pray for each other.
2. Pray that God's Spirit would keep working in us to know Christ's words and to love Him more.

Read the Bible with us!

1. What do we learn about God's Spirit in the passage?
2. Spend time thanking God for giving you His Spirit.

Monday - [Ezek36:24-28](#)

Tuesday - [Ezek 37:1-14](#)

Wednesday - [John 1:29-34](#)

Thursday - [2 Cor 3:7-18](#)

Friday - [Eph 1:1-14](#)

Notices

What happened at the town hall meeting?

Last Monday, we held a Town Hall meeting to discuss the proposal to develop our site. Perhaps you have seen the large block of land next to the current car park? That is land generously given to our church over 100 years ago. In the past years, it has lay vacant – underutilised by our church community. Excitingly, much work has been done in developing a proposal for the development of that land. At the Town Hall meeting over 50 people came to hear about the proposal. Perhaps you missed out? We want you to know more, get involved, and have your say. You can scan the QR Code next to this notice, and it will take you to our redevelopment page that gives you videos and other resources to consider.



Election Forum

We are hosting a Candidates Forum for the electorate of Willoughby. Come and hear from the major candidates on issues that you care about. There will be a limited number of set questions (e.g. religious freedom and SRE) and time for questions from the floor. If you do not live in the Willoughby electorate, you can find events for many other electorates at freedomforfaith.org.au/nsw

Date: Monday 27 February, 2023

Time: 7:30pm

Alpha Week 3.

It was Week 3 for Alpha last Wednesday. We looked at the heart of the Christian message: Why did Jesus have to die? As always, it was a friendly and engaging space—we ate dinner together, watched a short video, and then discussed it at our tables. Want to try Alpha? Come along this Wednesday night, 7-9pm. It's free, and we love to have newcomers! Let us know you're coming at st-stephens.com.au/summer.



SRE at St. Stephen's

Scripture in schools or SRE (Special Religious Education) is starting again this week at Willoughby Public school. Every week we get the opportunity to teach over 250 students about Jesus. Most students attending SRE do not come from Christian families. They have never been to church and don't own a Bible. Last year, over ten families came to church after receiving an invitation from their SRE



teacher. More students signed up for Christian SRE this year than the previous year. The school is willing to let us have multiple classes per year group. Praise God! Smaller class sizes mean you can build better relationships and teach more effectively. We also have Friday Kids running on-site in conjunction with SRE. It is an easy next step for kids to keep exploring Jesus.

The harvest is plentiful, but we need more people willing to help. Classes take place on Wednesday for 30 mins between 11-12:40. All the teaching materials will be provided. Training and lesson prep happens on Monday. If you work from home on Wednesday or have flexible hours, can you take this opportunity to share Jesus? Please speak to Pippie if you are interested in joining the team.

Kids Ministry Training

On the 19th of March, Adam Jolliffe from Youthworks is coming to help train and equip our kids' leaders. We aim to better teach the Bible to our kids and youth. Adam has over 20 years of kids ministry experience. If you are not currently serving on a kids' team, but are interested in checking out what kids' ministry is about, speak to Pippie about joining this training.

When: Sunday, 19th March.

Time: 11:45am-1:45pm (lunch included)

Where: Hainsworth Hall

What's Coming Up

Monday 27th	Weekly Prayer Meeting - Zoom Link - from 8:45-9:15am Meeting ID: 837 9111 9200 Passcode: qKga12 NSW Election Forrum, at 7:30pm, in the Chapel Hall.
Tuesday 28th	Playtime. From 9:30 to 11:30am. — March—
Wednesday 1st	Alpha Week 4 - Joins Us! It's free.
Friday 3rd	Friday Kids club. From 3:30pm to 5:00pm Half Past Six Youth Group. From 6:30pm to 8:30pm
Saturday 4th	Prayer Meeting - Onsite (Creche Room) 8:30am to 9am

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