

CHRISTIANITY

A JOYFUL SPIRITUALITY?

THE BOOK OF
GALATIANS
10 OCT - 28 NOV

Wk 7

Sunday 21 November 2021

TODAY'S
9:45^{AM}
SERVICE:

- Welcome
- Baptism
- Song
- Confession
- Bible Reading:
Galatians
5:16-26
- Sermon
- Song
- Interview
- Prayer
- Song
- Conclusion

If you are a visitor to our online service please don't feel obliged to contribute financially.

Most St Stephen's collection is received electronically.
BSB: 062 272
Account Number:
00490436

The electronic version of this contains a number of hyperlinks throughout. Feel free to use them.

Welcome to St Stephen's! Great to have you join us at church. We hope you find today's service engaging, challenging and ultimately a shaper of what our most important needs in life are. We would love to hear from you today. Can you scan the QR code and let us know how you found church?

Today is a significant day in the recent history of our church. Matt Straw, our Assistant Minister finishes his role after 5 years of serving us. We'll take time in the service to reflect on his time with us and thank him.



If you are joining us for the 1st time or after a few weeks away you will find we are focussing a portion of our service on the New Testament letter to the Galatians. We've spent several weeks reflecting on what God has to say to us in this part of the Bible. The constant throughout has been a reminder of God's gracious treatment of us. We've been warned not to try and earn our favour with God. We've been encouraged to simply accept his favour by trusting in Christ. New or old believer – this is a truth we all need to hear.



St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

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.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart,
O God, you will not despise.

Psalm 51:17

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.

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 forever. Amen

Sermon Notes

Living out freedom | [Galatians 5:16-26](#)

A licence to do whatever?

The Bible

The culture

The key players in change?

Me

Not me

The way change happens

Belonging to Christ

In step with the Spirit

Connect Group Study

1. Ever heard someone say “Its just who I am, I can’t change”? What is right and wrong about this statement?

Read Galatians 5:16-26

2. Consider the fruit of the Spirit (v.22):
 - i. Which comes naturally to your temperament?
 - ii. Which is more challenging?
 - iii. Are there any which you have given up on?
3. What is the characteristic of transformation in the Christian life? (vv. 16-18)
4. Who does Paul say is responsible for the change? Why do you say that?
5. How does the Gospel provide hope for change?

6. What is the next step for you this week?

God never promises to give you what you want, to meet your felt needs and longings. He tells you to be ruled by other, different desires. This is radical. God promises to change what you really want! God insists that He be first, and all lesser loves be radically subordinate.

- David Powlinson

7. Shape a prayer around the Galatians bible passage then spend time praying these prayers together.

Prayer Points

Read the Bible with us!

Read these passages with the following questions in mind:

What different ways does God use to reach the world with the Gospel? How might he use you?

Monday - [Acts 17:16-34](#)
Tuesday - [Acts 18:1-11](#)
Wednesday - [Acts 19:1-11](#)
Thursday - [Acts 19:13-20](#)
Friday - [Acts 20:7-12](#)

Notices

Acts Devotion Series

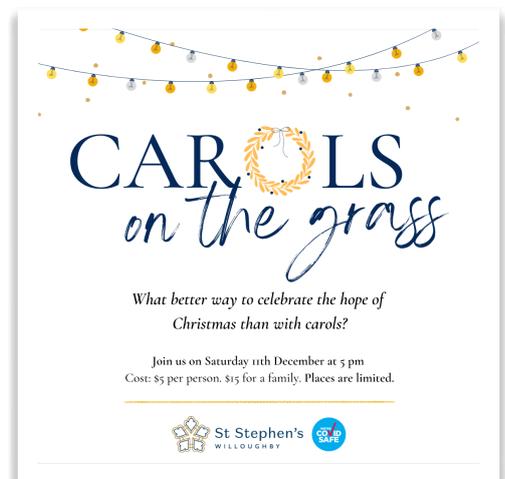


Throughout the past 5 weeks we have been systematically working through the New Testament history of the early church as found in the Book of Acts. Our staff have provided 5min devotions on Mon, Wed & Fri. They're designed to kick start our Bible reading and correlate with our weekly Bible reading guide found at the end of the Connect Group studies in this book. Reading the Bible is one of the key ways God speaks to us, grows us spiritually and

gives us hope. Let me encourage you to reconnect with the words of God through this series. You can find it on our [website](#).

Carols on the Grass

Carols on the Grass is running again this year. Last year was a success. It was great seeing our church band together and provide an opening for people to bring their friends to hear about Jesus. We need help again! Can you help on the day or prior? If so, could you please visit our [online form](#) and indicate what you could help with? Apart from helping what we really want to encourage you to do is bring your friends, family and neighbours along. You will need to register as numbers are limited. Visit our [registration page](#) to register and pay the small cost for you and your guests!



Matt Straw's Final Day Today!

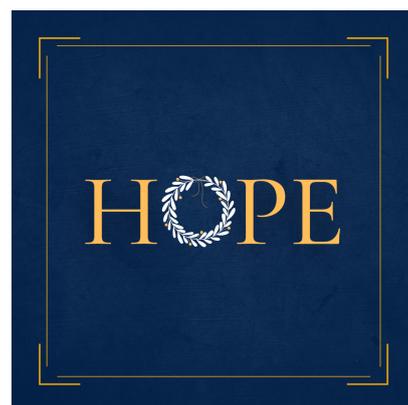
After being our Assistant Minister for five years, Matt's final day at St. Stephen's is upon us. He has had a significant influence on all aspects of Church life and will be sorely missed. We are all thankful for his service to us and wish him all the best in his new season of ministry.

Summer Survey

Can you think of a person with whom you can share our Summer Survey? It is one question that could start conversations with a friend about faith. These chats might be what God uses to bring them to faith. If they are hesitant, tell them to fill it in anonymously. Summer Survey answers help us prepare for the Summer Series, which offers responses to the four most common answers. We have three special guest speakers, David Robertson, Glenn Davies and, John Lavender.

Christmas Services

Christmas is a wonderful time that not only helps us remember the first coming of God's son, but we also eagerly await his second coming. This year we have Carols on the Grass on December 11th @ 5pm. On Christmas Eve we have 2 services: one for the family at 4pm and a late-night Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols at 11pm. On Christmas Day, we will have two services: 7:45am (Traditional) and 9:45am (Family, with the 'Come and Sing' Community Choir).



Working Bee - 4th of December

We are having a **church working bee**, and everyone's help would be greatly appreciated! Let's make our church a welcoming place for the friends we are bringing to 'Carols on the Grass.' Several jobs need our attention, and we start at 8:00am. Jobs can be done on the day or in the lead up - see Phil McLeod (9:45am Service) for more details.

Kids and Youth

This year has been a challenging year for everyone, particularly our school teachers. We want to thank them for all the hard work put into online learning and supporting kids and families through the lockdown. The SRE team is putting together small thank you packs for Willoughby Public School teachers. We need your help! You can bring some individually wrapped chocolates like lint balls, Ferrero Rochers to help fill these packs. Please bring them to the Church Office on or before Monday 6th December.

What's Coming Up

Sunday 21st	Matt Straw's Farewell.
Monday 22nd	Online Prayer Meeting 8:30-8:55am - Zoom Link Meeting ID: 878 2345 9321 Passcode: 836532
Tuesday 23rd	Playtime - 9:30am to 11:30am Email pippie@st-stephens.com.au for details
Friday 26th	Youth Alpha at Half Past Six is onsite Email pippie@st-stephens.com.au for details — December —
Saturday 4th	Working bee - contact Phil McLeod
Tuesday 7th	Playtime, end of year get together
Saturday 11th	Carols on the Grass from 5-7 pm. Register Now!

Our Staff - Contact us!



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