



Wk 7

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

- Welcome
- Song
- Confession
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
[Psalm 7](#)
(Bible p.538)
- 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 18 September 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! We are glad you have chosen to be with us at church today. We think there is no better place to be on a Sunday. We would love to hear from you. Would you take a moment to fill in the Connect Card? (electronic version available via the QR Code)



Every Sunday, we hear from the Bible. It is deliberate. It is a hallmark of any good church. Why? Not because we think traditions are important. Not because we get a directive from head office. It is because we believe it is God's word. We read the Bible first, and then it is explained. God speaks to us when we hear from the Bible. God's word (which formed the world) shapes us, reforms us, and renews us. If you don't know the Bible well, that's OK. You have made a great decision to come today. We want to help you. Help you know it better and be changed by it.

At the heart of the Bible's message is the story of Jesus's life. It is the good news. Jesus came to save us, shape us, and renew us. Come, hear God speak about his Son.



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.

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.

³⁴No longer will they teach their neighbour, or say to one another, "Know the Lord," because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,' declares the Lord. 'For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.'

Jeremiah 31:34

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 is our refuge | Passage: [Psalm 7](#)

1. Why is God's justice a refuge?
2. What does it mean for us to take refuge in God?
3. How are we able to take refuge in God?

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Questions

1. Have you ever been falsely accused of something? How did you respond?

Read Psalm 7

Getting your head around the passage:

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

1. What does the Psalm say about David's pursuers?
 2. David makes requests of God:
 - a) What does he ask God to do?
 - b) Why does he ask God to do it?
 - c) How does he ask God to do it?
 3. How does David start and conclude the Psalm? What does it say about his attitude to God?
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2. Why does David think God's justice is a good thing? Do you agree with him?
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3. What does this Psalm tell us about the people who can take refuge in God?

4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21: How does Jesus help us take refuge in God?
5. In Revelation 6:9-11: we get a picture of Christians who have experienced persecution and cry out for God's justice. How does this encourage us, so that we also can pray the words of Psalm 7?



GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video provided to your group leader.

1. Who are you sharing your faith with at the moment?
2. What do you need help in when it comes to sharing your faith? Pray together.

Prayer

1. Give thanks that through Jesus, we can take refuge in God.
2. Pray that we will find our refuge in God's justice when we are tempted to despair about hardships.

Read the Bible with us!

1. What is challenging about this Psalm?
2. How might this Psalm be understood as Jesus' words?
3. How might we (as people who are righteous before God because of Jesus) read this Psalm?

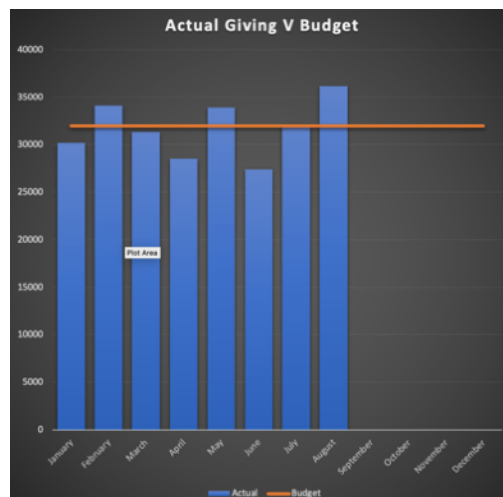
Monday - [Psalm 8](#)
Tuesday - [Psalm 9](#)
Wednesday - [Psalm 10](#)
Thursday - [Psalm 11](#)
Friday - [Psalm 12](#)

Notices

Finance Update

Thank you to those generous members (of our parish) who support the life and ministry of St Stephen's. The response to Mission Gift Day has been great. So far, we have raised \$26,000. It is \$6k more than we hoped. All of this will be a blessing to our link missionaries, who take the message of the Bible to groups who otherwise have no access to it. If you are a member who currently doesn't

support the ministry of St Stephen's, you can kick start your giving by visiting the 'Give' page on our website. We have a lot of exciting things happening in our church life at present, and it's a privilege to share and serve in these. st-stephens.com.au/give.



Praying for Link Missionaries

The response to financially supporting our Link Missionaries has been phenomenal. Thank you! You can also support them in their ministry by including them in your prayers, adopting a link missionary to pray for in your GaP Groups. You can also join us in one of our weekly prayer meetings and praying for them there.

Prayer points can be found using this link - bit.ly/3RGXayD.

More general prayer points are in the Hall foyer (look for the display pictures on the walls).

Belonging Course

The Belonging Course is today at 12pm. It takes an in-depth look at our church, its culture, vision, future priorities and your place in it. We encourage all regulars and new comers to participate. It runs for three hours and includes lunch and afternoon tea. (with a programme for the kids) Those who attended our first course found it extremely helpful to find a place at the centre of our church life.

With a kids programme!



Student Minister - Micah Beel

Micah is one of our Student Ministers. Micah and his wife Soph live in Newtown. He is studying in 3rd year at Moore College. Micah hopes to enter local Anglican church ministry in the future. He works with our musicians to help improve and grow our music ministry. We are blessed by his work with our 9:45am and 5:30pm congregations. Micah generously offers his time to our church family for free. If you would like to support Micah and Soph in prayer or financially, speak to him on Sunday.



Simply Christianity

One of our guests said, "I've been getting to know the God I have been praying to." In the last two weeks of the Simply Christianity course, we looked at the centre of the Christian message: the death and resurrection of Jesus. The discussion on the resurrection was a lot to process. Was it true? What does it mean for me if it is true? This Friday, we will reflect on what we have learnt; and next steps.



Half Past Six Youth Group

The last week was wonderful for the Kids and Youth ministry. Thirty-six kids attended lego afternoon, and we taught 200 kids at SRE. Ten families came to playtime, and fifteen youth come to the HPS youth group. Twenty-nine kids and youth attended Sunday kids programme. Each interaction was a moment to share Jesus and grow the young in their devotion to God's word. Praise God! Jesus said, "The harvest is

plentiful, but the workers are few". It is certainly true for us. Please pray that God would raise more people to lead and consider if you could join a team. We will train you in the skills you need. No prior experience with kids and youth is required, just a love for Jesus and a willingness to learn! Email Pippie at pippie@st-stephens.com.au to express an interest in serving!

What's Coming Up

Sunday 18th	Belonging Course - 12 to 3pm - Chapel Hall - Register
Monday 19th	Weekly Prayer Meeting - Zoom Link Meeting ID: 837 9111 9200 Passcode: qKga12
Tuesday 20th	Playtime - Week 6 - Register
Friday 23th	Half Past Six
Saturday 24th	Prayer Morning - 8:45-9:15am - On-site – October –
Sunday 9th	GaP Group Leaders Meeting

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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