

# Jesus above all

## The Letter to the Colossians



Wk 2

### TODAY'S 9:45AM SERVICE:

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:  
[Colossians](#)  
[1:15-23](#)  
(Bible p.1182)
- 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 16 October 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 today. We count it a joy having visitors and newcomers. We would like to hear from you. Could you take a moment and fill in the Connect Card? You can access it via the QR Code. Or use the hardcopy version enclosed with this booklet.



Each week when we meet together, we take time to hear from the Bible, spend time in prayer and encourage one another after our services. We do this because we can understand life through the lens of what God has to say, and with the help of his people. For many of us, our weeks are packed with responsibilities and competing pressures. We believe that it is a reflection on the word of God in the Bible that helps us to see life properly. The Bible allows us to reflect on the various demands in life with greater clarity. Meeting with God's people also reminds us that we are not alone in the tasks of life.

We hope you are refreshed, refocused, and energised as you meet with us and hear from God.

## 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.

<sup>13</sup>When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup>having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

Colossians 2:13-14

### 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 it is 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

The surprising hope of Jesus | Passage: Colossians 1:15-23

## 1. The true nature of Jesus

Unseen

Seen

## 2. The identity of his enemies

Expected

Unexpected

## 3. A surprising offer

## Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Questions

1. C.S. Lewis famously wrote: I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse.

Which of the options do you think your friends/family/neighbours consider him to be? Why?

### Read Colossians 1:15-23

#### **Getting your head around the passage:**

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

1. What adjectives are used to describe Jesus?
  2. List the various things attributed to Jesus.
  3. How does creation relate to Jesus?
  4. How are you described?
  5. What is this passage contingent on? What are the conditions of God's offer?
2. If Christ is above all powers and circumstances, what comfort can it bring?

3. What impedes us from believing that Jesus is no. 1?
4. What can we deliberately or inadvertently (blind spots) make no.1? Why is this tragic?
5. What is offered to those who accept and enact Jesus as no.1? How can that actually reshape our 'blind spots'?



### **GaP Group Reflection**

**Watch the video provided to your group leader.**

1. Who was the most influential person in your story of coming to faith? What did they do? What was their impact?
2. Who can you pray for and bring to the 'Taste of Life' event?

## **Prayer**

1. Acknowledge to your group an area of your life where you struggle to make Jesus no.1. Ask God for forgiveness.
2. Pray that God would remind you of the hope Jesus offers in that area of life.

## **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 1:15-16](#)  
Tuesday - [Col 1:17](#)  
Wednesday - [Col 1:18](#)  
Thursday - [Col 1:19-20](#)  
Friday - [Col 1:21-23a](#)



## Notices

### A Fresh Community

Over the past two months, we have begun the process of planning and recruiting for a new Sunday afternoon/evening service to replace our current 5:30pm service. We want to create a 'fresh' community that loves Jesus, want to reach the surrounding neighbourhood and wants to stretch our faith beyond the confines of Sundays. So far, we have ~30 people joining us when we relaunch in Jan 2023. Are you interested in joining this group as we embark on something fresh? Come and pray with us this Sunday at 4:00pm in the Chapel Hall. We will also spend some time continuing to plan for the new service.



### Praying for Term 4 - 2022!

The final quarter of the year is an exciting and busy one! Our kids & youth ministries restart this week. We have so many great leaders who serve in this area.

Please pray that they would be refreshed for their roles and serve fruitfully. Our Christmas Carols and Services teams are working hard. Please pray for the teams as they prepare. Please pray we will get great responses to both Carols on the Grass and our Christmas Services. In November, we will celebrate together. With a Prayer Morning on the 5th of Nov, and Gift Day on November 13th. Pray this would be profoundly encouraging for our community. We are also running our fourth outreach course for this year - Life - starting on Wed 26th Oct. Please pray God will send 30+ non-church guests to our course opener. Pray for our church family who are inviting friends.

### Playtime @ St Stephen's

Playtime, a playgroup for under fives and their carers, restarted this week. Seventeen families attended on Tuesday. It was great to see God bringing along more people and answering our prayers for growth. There are lots of outreach opportunities for playtime this term. Please pray for the playtime team to make the most of every opportunity to share Jesus.



## A Taste of LIFE – Wed 26 October

Many want to ponder about life's big questions. They don't know how and where to do that—that's what this night is all about. It's a night to enjoy great food & drink while thinking about life. There will be interesting wine and food pairings to try. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic wine will be available, along with three course meal (including smoked meats). Book your place at [st-stephens.com.au/spring](http://st-stephens.com.au/spring). Tickets are \$10 per person. Registration closes on Sunday, 23rd October. This night is a taster of the Life Course that will continue for the following three Wednesday nights (2nd, 9th and 16th of November).



## The Life Course – 2nd, 9th, and 16th of November

The Life course is a free course that will continue after A Taste of Life. It's for anyone who wants to explore faith, life and Jesus. Each night goes from 7-9pm over food and drinks with a small, friendly group. Each night will have some discussion time, a short talk and Q&A. No prior knowledge or church experience is required. This course is an opportunity to hear what Jesus says about life and ask any questions you may have.



## Kids and Youth Programmes

Kids and youth programmes starting back for Term 4. Who can you bring along? We are also looking for team members to help in various kids and youth ministries. For more information, email Pippie Krebs - Kids and Youth Minister at [pippie@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:pippie@st-stephens.com.au).

1. 16th October: Sunday Kids + Youth- During our 9:45 am program.
2. 21st October: Half Past Six Youth group- Years 5-9. Friday 6:30-8:30pm. We play games, eat food and learn about Jesus.

## What's Coming Up

Sunday 16th	Sunday Kids & Youth programmes resume Fresh - Planning and Prayer Meeting. Chapel Hall 4-5pm
Monday 17th	Weekly Prayer Meeting - <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> Meeting ID: 837 9111 9200   Passcode: qKga12
Tuesday 18th	Playtime - 9:30am to 11:30am
Thursday 20th	Encounter Group: 10am to 1pm, Chapel Hall
Friday 21st	Half Past Six Youth Group resumes
Saturday 22nd	Prayer Morning 8:45-9:15am - Onsite
Wednesday 26th	A Taste of Life (opening night of the Life Course) <a href="#">Register</a>
Sunday 30th	Newish Morning Tea

## Our Staff - Contact Us!



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