

# Jesus above all

## The letter to the Colossians



Wk 5

### TODAY'S 9:45<sup>AM</sup> SERVICE:

- Welcome
- Songs
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:  
[Colossians 3:1-11](#)  
(Bible p.1184)
- Sermon
- Prayer
- Holy Communion
- 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 6 November 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're glad to have you with us. We would love to hear from you. You can get in touch by simply speaking to a staff member or you can use the Connect Cards.

There is a hard copy version and an electronic version (accessible via the QR Code). Do let us know how you found the service.



This time last year, we were returning to church after our second lockdown due to COVID-19. We are so thankful for a full year of church attendance. We have learnt a lot of lessons in the past year. We came away from lockdowns with a greater appreciation for meeting together. We saw that the truths of the Bible (keep meeting together!) were worthwhile. We valued the opportunity to not just hear information via a computer screen but share in the lives of our church family. We felt tired but compelled to recommit to each other.

Over the past year, we have seen the value of life together. We have also had many new people join us in that time. If you are someone who has joined us in the past year, what a blessing you are to us!

## **Prayers for those not sharing in Lord's Supper**

Participation in the Lord's Supper is for those who have professed faith in Jesus - it's a powerful and important symbol of the Christian message. As such we want to encourage those who are still exploring the Christian faith to feel free to remain in their seats when others move to the front to receive the Lord's Supper. During that time you may want to reflect on the sermon or Bible reading. You may also want to pray one of these prayers below.

### **Prayer for those searching for truth**

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me who you are. Give me an understanding of you that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

### **Prayer of belief**

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Saviour and Lord. Amen.

### **Prayer for those struggling with sin**

Lord Jesus, enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayers adapted from Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York.

### **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 and 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

The change to your life | Passage: Colossians 3:1-11

## 1. You must change

But why?

In what way?

## 2. You can change

How?

By what power?

## 3. You should change

# Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Questions

1. What part of the Christian life do you find hardest? Why?

## Read Colossians 3:1-11

### Getting your head around the passage:

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

1. What things does Paul encourage us to do?
2. How is Jesus described?
3. What are we to put off/get rid of?
4. What has already happened to us?
5. What is continuing to take place?

2. Why is Christian sexual ethics so challenging to affirm personally and publicly?

3. Why is God's wrath against the things listed in v.5?

4. How does "life change" in the Christian faith differ from other religious approaches?

5. What might it look like for Christ to be 'your life' and for you to be 'rooted and built up in him' (2:6-7)?
6. Read Col 1:15-23. Why does this encourage us to be united with Christ? What hope does it provide as we long to change?



### GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video provided to your group leader.

1. Why is generosity a hallmark of God's people?
2. Share some stories of times you've seen Christians be generous to others and the encouragement you have found.

## Prayer

1. Ask God to continue to transform your whole life – especially the things you cordon off.
2. Pray for a friend who doesn't know Jesus yet.

## 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 3:1-2](#)

Tuesday - [Col 3:4](#)

Wednesday - [Col 3:5-6](#)

Thursday - [Col 3:8-10](#)

Friday - [Col 3:11](#)

## Notices

### Evening Service

Our current evening service will be ending on Sunday, 27 November 2022. We are closing this service in anticipation of our new service starting on 15 January 2023. The new service time is yet to be finalised. Throughout December, the Launch Team (for the new service) and anyone else interested will meet at 6pm in the Church to read the Bible, and pray. It will be followed by a meal together in Chapel Hall. If you are interested in joining the launch team, please contact Prash. We are excited about the new people we will meet in 2023 through the new service and its community.



### Gift Day - 13th Nov

On Sunday, 13 November, we are holding our annual gift day. Each year we have a day set aside where our church family gives an additional financial gift to help support the ministry. Our members give regularly through the year, but gift day is an opportunity to reflect on the year's blessings, the joy of time together and pour out ourselves as an act of thanksgiving.

When we give to church life, we are giving to bless our church family – affirming how much we value the community that Christ is building. If you have questions about gift day, please chat with Prash or one of the wardens.

### Picnic @ Bales Park - 13th Nov

To celebrate Gift Day we are heading to Bales Park for a picnic lunch (sausage sizzle). It is a great way to celebrate together. We are also inviting our playtime and HPS families. It will be a beautiful opportunity to build connections with them.

*When:* Sunday 13th November. *Time:* After 9:45 service.

*Where:* Bales Park, Willoughby.

*Bring:* Picnic blanket, something to eat, games.

## Kids' afternoon club - 18th Nov.

Did you know that there are approximately 4,000 kids who live within 2km of our church? At the moment, we connect with less than 5% of them. On Friday, 18th November, we are holding a one-off kids' afternoon club in partnership with the International Chinese School. It will be a fun afternoon with games and hearing about Jesus. Who can you bring along?



*When:* Friday 18th November, *Time:* 3:30-4:30 pm.  
*Where:* Chapel Hall. *Who:* Kindergarten - Year 4.

## Life Course - Week 1

Our LIFE course began on Wednesday, and eight people came to look into life with Jesus. We explored what the Bible said was the main problem in our world. There was wine and cheese on all the tables, but more importantly, conversations and questions about life with Jesus ensued. The LIFE course continues this Wednesday, 9th, and 16th November, from 7-9 pm. It is free, and no prior knowledge or experience is needed. Please continue to pray for those in attendance. Pray for soft hearts and open minds for those who don't know the Gospel. Pray for boldness for those sharing the Good News.

## Letterbox Drop - 20th Nov

We plan on having our flyers for our **Christmas services** and **Carols on the Grass** event available by **20th November**. We would love for you to schedule a walk around the neighbourhood that week to help us distribute them. This Christmas (in addition to reaching out to the community and sharing the hope of eternal life), we aim to reach those who find themselves alone during the festivities. Many in our immediate vicinity live thousands of miles away from their friends and families. This year, we look to share the joy of Christmas with them. The flyers look like Christmas cards with space for you to write a note. We are not asking you to do that for the letter box drop, but you can take some spare ones to give to friends and family.



# What's Coming Up

Monday 7th	Weekly Prayer Meeting - <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> Meeting ID: 837 9111 9200   Passcode: qKga12
Tuesday 8th	Playtime - 9:30am to 11:30am
Wednesday 9th	Life Course, 7-9pm.
Friday 11th	HPS Harbour Bridge Walk - 6:30-8:30pm. Register @ <a href="http://st-stephens.com.au/spring">st-stephens.com.au/spring</a>
Saturday 12th	Prayer Morning 8:45-9:15am - Onsite
Sunday 13th	Picnic at Bales Park (Willoughby) after 9:45am service. Gift Day
Friday 18th	Kids Afternoon Club, 3:30-4:30pm, Chapel Hall.
Sunday 20th	Letterbox Drop for Carols begin

## Our Staff - Contact Us!



Prashanth Colombage  
Senior Minister  
M: 0432 314 466  
E: [prash@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:prash@st-stephens.com.au)

Gordon Luk  
Outreach and Sunday Services  
E: [gordon@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:gordon@st-stephens.com.au)



Pippie Krebs  
Kids & Youth Minister  
E: [pippie@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:pippie@st-stephens.com.au)

Jill Chilton  
Membership Minister  
E: [jill@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:jill@st-stephens.com.au)



Kushak Sharma  
Admin & Communications Director  
E: [kushak@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:kushak@st-stephens.com.au)