

This is God



The life of Jesus according to John's Gospel

Wk 13

**TODAY'S
9:45AM**

SERVICE:

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
[John 15:1-17](#)
(Bible p.1081)
- 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 5 March 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. Thank you for joining us at church this week. There is no better place to be on a Sunday! We would love to hear how you found the morning. You can leave us your feedback through the Connect Card (a hardcopy is in the booklet. An electronic version of the card is accessible via the QR Code). You can also respond to anything of interest in this bulletin or raised in the service using the Connect Card.



Today we continue our series looking at the final address of Jesus to his disciples. Having comforted them about some of the unknowns, he turns to encourage them about their role in his mission. Being God's agents in the world seems like a bold claim to make. Christians only make this claim because they have the encouragement of Jesus to do so. Even more, we know that we are only fruitful in this role because Jesus is at work in and through his people. The idea that we are sent out to serve God shapes the life of our church. We want to be a church that God uses for his eternal purposes. We hope we can serve you this way.

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

New Life, True Life | John 15:1-17

Prashanth Colombage

1. The marks of a follower of Christ.

2. The marks of the world.

A. Fruitful?

B. [In]dependence.

C. [Our] Words.

3. Friend and Follower.

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. Have there been times where you have questioned the authenticity of your faith? What has renewed your confidence that God is at work in you?

Read John 15:1-17

Getting your head around the passage:

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

- A. Who is the vine, who is the gardener, who are the branches?
- B. What instructions does Jesus give us?
- C. How are we to treat others?
- D. What promises does Jesus give us?
- E. Who is glorified/benefits?
- F. Who started this process? What is the key to the process of bearing fruit?

2. What does being 'fruitful' imply for the Christian life? You may want to refer to the following passages to also help you consider this imagery (Gal 5:22-23; James 1:16-18; Rom 7:4-5),
3. As you reflect on your life (as a follower of Christ) where do you see the fruit of faith in Jesus transforming you?

4. Where is it hardest to depend on Christ in your life?
5. What encouragements from the passage do you need to hold on to as you seek to depend on Jesus?
6. How can you continue to remain in Christ's words? (v.7) How can the group help you in this over the coming months?



GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video provided to your group leader.

- I. What do you hope people will see most clearly when they come to church on a Sunday?
- II. How can you help make our Sunday Services a “shopfront to the Gospel and our church’s values?”

Prayer

1. Give thanks to God for his slow and steady work in your life (to make you more like Jesus). Perhaps, identify ways in which he has done this and specifically give thanks and praise for that.
2. Pray for growth in gospel shaped fruit for others in your group.

Read the Bible with us!

- I. What is the source of growth according to this passage?
- II. What is the shape of fruitfulness?
- III. How can God grow you this week? Spend some time asking for him to do so.

Monday - [John 15:1-17](#)

Tuesday - [Col 1:9-14](#)

Wednesday - [Gal 5:22-26](#)

Thursday - [Rom 7:4-6](#)

Friday - [James 1:16-18](#)

Notices

Easter 2023

Experience Easter at St Stephen's

An Easter Walkthrough

Follow the footsteps of Jesus through a self-guided tour of art exhibitions. Supper and drinks are included.

Date: Thursday, 6 April
Open from: 6-9pm (4-6pm: Kid's Walkthrough)
Entry fee: \$5 per person, \$10 per family



Scan QR code to register

Good Friday

7:45am — Traditional service.
9:45am — Contemporary service with kids' program and hot cross buns.

Easter Sunday

7:45am — Traditional service.
9:45am — All-ages service with an Easter egg hunt and a free sausage sizzle.
6:00pm — Modern worship service interwoven with ancient words followed by dinner (free for guests)



Annual General Meeting

On Monday 27 March, at 7:30pm we are holding our Annual General Meeting. An AGM is a great way to review all God has done in our church over the past 12 months, elect some of our key leaders for the coming 12 months, cast a vision for our future direction and seek God's leading in all things. If St Stephen's is the place you call home then we would love to see you, whether you've been coming for 3 months or 30 years! Sometimes newer people feel like they do not belong at these events – that is not the case. We want all members to feel welcome at the AGM.

The Alpha Course

Anyone interested in exploring the Christian faith can attend. We have guests from many different backgrounds and stages of life. You don't need to know anything about Christianity to come along.

Try Alpha this **Wednesday, 7-9pm.**

Register @ st-stephens.com.au/summer.

Picnic at Bales Park

We had a lovely time at Bales Park last week. Thanks to everyone who came!



HPS Youth goes Rock Climbing

We will go to Climb Fit (St Leonards) where we will rock climb which will be followed by dinner. This is a chance for our youth to bring their friends along. Please pray that many people will come. Youth will be accompanied by responsible leaders who have working with children checks and child protection training. If transport is an issue please let us know and we can help organise a lift.

[Register your Child](http://st-stephens.com.au/summer) at st-stephens.com.au/summer.

When: Friday the 10th March | **Who:** Year 5-12

Time: 6:30-8:30pm | **Cost:** \$25

What's Coming Up

Monday 6th	Weekly Prayer Meeting - Zoom Link - from 8:45-9:15am Meeting ID: 837 9111 9200 Passcode: qKga12
Tuesday 7th	Playtime. From 9:30-11:30am.
Wednesday 8th	Alpha Course 7-9pm, Chapel Hall - Joins Us! It's free.
Friday 10th	Friday Kids club. From 3:30pm to 5:00pm Half Past Six Youth Group. Rock Climbing @ Climb Fit (St. Leonard) - Register your Child
Saturday 11th	Prayer Meeting - Onsite (Creche Room) 8:30-9am
Monday 13th	Parish Council Meeting.

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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