

A vision for our

LIFE TOGETHER

Nurture | Generosity | Worship | Service | Invitation

Wk 1

Sunday 30 July 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.

TODAY'S 9:45AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
1 John 3:1-18
(p. 1229)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Announcements
- Song
- Conclusion

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

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

Welcome to St Stephen's. We are glad to have you with us. We think there is no better place to be on a Sunday!

Throughout the service there are many things you may want to respond to. One of the best ways is through the Connect Card. You can either use the paper version found inside or via the QR code. Filling in a Connect Card means the staff can respond to you 1st thing on Monday morning.



Today we begin a month focussing on what kind of church we think God wants us to be. The best and safest way to answer that is by considering the Bible's understanding of the church and applying that to our context. The Bible has many different images for the church. This week we reflect on what it means to be part of the family of God. We hope it's a family you want to be part of too.

Next Steps

Are you new? We would love to meet you. Hear a brief intro on the life of our church at our Newish Morning Tea today after the 9:45am Service.

Been regularly coming? If you are a regular member of our church, we encourage you to attend our next Belonging Course on Sunday 10 September. Belonging is the gateway to our GaP Groups, serving and deeper connection with the community.

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

Heavenly Father,
you have loved us with an everlasting love,
but we have gone our own way,
and rejected your will for our lives.
We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.
For the sake of your Son who died for us,
forgive us, cleanse us, and change us.
By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you,
and to please you in every way;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.

Exodus 34:6-7a

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 forever
Amen.

Sermon Notes

Better Together in Care | 1 John 3:1-18

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. The Family

Called

2. The Bond of Love

Words and Actions

'Swimming between the flags' - GaP Group Ministry

3. No Better Place

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. What is good about church life? What is hard about church life? Why is it worth being part of?

Read 1 John 3:1-18

Getting your head around the passage:

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

- A. What are the reoccurring ideas of this passage?
- B. What titles/names/descriptions does John give his readers?
- C. What is the contrast between the church and the world?
- D. On what basis do people become children of God?
- E. How are we meant to treat each other as members of the church?
- F. What examples of love does John give?

2. Do you think of the church as a family?

3. What similarities and differences do you note between your experience of biological family and the church community?

4. How does a richer understanding of God's love (see verse 16) help you to love others?

Vision in Action

5. What has impeded the full expression of love and care in your GaP Group this year?

6. How can your GaP Group be better at loving each other over the coming term?

Prayer Focus

- A. Confess ways you have failed to love other as you ought.
- B. Ask God for opportunities, discipline and desire to show love in action to a church member this week.



GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video provided to your GaP Group leader and consider the following questions:

- i. Why do you think GaP Groups are the best place to 'swim between the flags of care'?
- ii. How can you help us foster a community that is broadly committed to gospel shaped love?

Read the Bible with us!

Consider 1 Corinthians 13 each day this week. Pick one attribute of love.

1. How can you express this in a meaningful way to someone at church this month?
2. Why can this be hard to express in the church?
3. What truth about Christ do you need to draw upon to fuel your love for others?

Spend some time praying.



St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

Dumpling Making Night

Food and fun for everyone of all ages,
plus a chance to think about *culture, community*
and the *Christian faith*.

Friday 11 August
6:30pm to 8:30pm

Scan for tickets

\$10 Adult | \$5 Child | \$20 Family

(includes all food and drink)



Come and learn how to make authentic Chinese dumplings. Make and eat as many as you can. This event is for everyone of all ages. There will also be separate activities for primary school-aged children and high schoolers after dinner.

st-stephens.com.au/winter

Notices

Dumpling Making Night

Dumpling Making Night is on Friday 11 August, 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

This is an event for everyone of all ages (kids, youth, adults). It is a night of food and fun—you don't need to know how to make dumplings! Come along and bring your friends.

As we make dumplings and eat them, there is a chance to connect and chat with others. After dinner, Pippie and her team will run the kids program. The youth will get a taste of our HPS youth group. The adults will have a taste of the Simply Christianity course. Book your spots at st-stephens.com.au/winter

Registration will close Wednesday 9 August.

Newish Morning Tea

If you consider yourself new to St Stephen's then we want to welcome you. We run Newish Morning Teas every month to help people get their bearings, meet staff and other new people and take a step further into church life.

Our next Newish Morning Tea is on today straight after the 9:45am service.

Care Ministries in our Church

Christian care involves reaching out to others in need, listening attentively, and bearing witness to God's grace and presence through our words and deeds. We offer this care with the understanding that any difference we make is only possible through God's grace. However, we also offer it because we find ourselves bound to each other because of God's grace.

Most care in our church takes place in our weekly GaP Groups. This is the place you need to be so that we can care for you best. These groups will remind you of God's sustaining promises, support you in following him through good and hard seasons and pray for and with you. In addition, we hope to establish a new Care Committee to help meet more unique & challenging needs of our church family.

If you are interested in hearing more about this ministry, would you please come to our 1hr discussion and planning time on Sunday 20 August from 12:30-1:30pm in the Chapel Hall.

What's Coming Up

- 5 August Weekly Prayer Meeting: Saturdays 8:30am in Chapel Hall
- 7 August Wardens' Meeting
- 11 August Dumpling Making Night
- 13 August Night Church Review Meeting
- 14 August Parish Council

For more on what's happening this winter at St Stephen's, visit st-stephens.com.au/winter

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